

JPRS-LAM-84-101

11 September 1984

Latin America Report

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

11 September 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

BRAZIL

CTA Director Addresses Organization's Problems, Plans (Hugo de Oliveira Piva Interview; TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA, No 10, 1984)	1
Composition of Governor Neves' Possible Cabinet Viewed (Carlos Chagas; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 22 Jul 84)	5
Neves Views IMF, Constituent Assembly, Party Reform (Laerte Rimoli, Leticia Borges; FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 16 Jul 84)	8
Confidential Study Analyzes Government's Economic Options (O GLOBO, 18 Jul 84)	11
Venturini Deems Emergence of New PDS Candidate Unlikely (O GLOBO, 21 Jul 84)	14
Briefs Trade Surplus Figures	15

CUBA

Joint Communique Issued Following Visit to Tanzania (BOHEMIA, No 27, 6 Jul 84)	16
Visit to Mali Concludes in Joint Statement (BOHEMIA, No 26, 29 Jun 84)	20
Trinidad, Tobago Called Vital to Caricom's Future (PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Jul 84)	25
Polish Government Spokesman Attacks U.S. Policy (Orlando Oramas Leon; GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 22 Jul 84)	27
Australia Blamed for Failure of UN Conference on Sugar (GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 22 Jul 84)	28

Consequences of U.S. Interest Rate Hikes Said To Be Costly (George Carriazo Moreno; GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 22 Jul 84)	29
UPEB's Stand Against Transnationals Praised (PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Jul 84)	32
Official Fees for Legal Services Published (TRABAJADORES, 25 Jun 84)	34
Over 500 Saharans Study on Isle of Youth (Pedro Garcia; GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 22 Jul 84)	35
Ghanaian Students at Isle of Youth's Newest School (Miriam Castro; PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Jun 84)	37
Dropouts Tied To Broken Homes, Lack of Parental Guidance (Lidya Martinez Interview; BOHEMIA, No 26, 29 Jun 84)	39
Negligence, Faulty Machinery Causing Workplace Fatalities (TRABAJADORES, 25 Jun 84; GRANMA, 28 Jun 84)	41
293 Incidents in 1983, by Luis Rodriguez Balmaseda Increase in Electrical Accidents, by Joaquin Oramas	
Quality of Cane Cutters' Boots Seen Improving (Alberto Pozo; BOHEMIA, No 26, 29 Jun 84)	43
Briefs	
MINREX Statement Supports Laos	45
GUATEMALA	
Government Lifts Special Court Sentences (PRENSA LIBRE, 19 Jul 84)	46
HAITI	
Sylvio Claude's Daughter Severely Beaten at Home (LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, 7-13 Jul 84)	48
Merchants Claim Security Forces Unlawfully Seized Foodstuffs (LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, 7-13 Jul 84)	49
HONDURAS	
Briefs	
New APROH General Coordinator	51
New Electoral Tribunal President	51

MEXICO

Transport Construction Underway in Southern Region
(EXCELSIOR, 17, 18 Jul 84) 52

Mountain, Soconusco Area Roadway
Oaxaca Rail Link

NICARAGUA

Church Official on 'Contra' Activities, Elections
(Luis Delgado; DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, 6 Jul 84) 56

Bayardo Arce Refutes Alleged Agreements With OAS
(Manuel Guerrero; PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Jul 84) 59

CTA DIRECTOR ADDRESSES ORGANIZATION'S PROBLEMS, PLANS

Sao Paulo TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA in Portuguese No 10, 1984 pp 30-31

['Summary' of interview with Air Force Maj Gen Hugo de Oliveira Piva by Roberto Pereira; date and place not specified]

[Text] In taking over as director of the Aerospace Technology Center [CTA], Maj Gen Hugo de Oliveira Piva will be heading one of the country's most famous and active research centers. But he will have to reconcile big objectives with a limited budget. That is the subject of the exclusive interview he granted to TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA.

His friends say jokingly that he seems to be more a scientist than an officer in the Brazilian Air Force. In fact, Air Force Maj Gen Hugo de Oliveira Piva, 57, is still both of those things as he takes charge of one of the country's most important research centers along with all the challenges and problems involved in that position.

A native of the city of Sao Paulo and an aeronautical engineer, General Piva has the calm speech of one who has had to overcome many problems to reach the position he now occupies. He is known chiefly for his activities as head of the Space Activities Institute (IAE), which he headed for many years. A few days after being appointed director of the CTA, he granted TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA an exclusive interview in which he reaffirmed his faith in the country's future and in the capability of Brazilian researchers.

Here is a summary of his answers to our questions.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: How do you feel about becoming director of the same CTA where you were trained as an engineer so many years ago?

General Piva: Naturally, I feel very satisfied. The CTA is an institution that is respected both inside and outside Brazil, and it won that respect through work. I regard my new responsibility as a kind of challenge to be met.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: But the responsibilities of your new post are going to take you away from the very direct contact you had with the IAE's rocket programs.

General Piva: That is true in a way. But the IAE is one of the CTA's institutes, so I will still be able to follow closely what is being done in terms of rockets. Besides, the team at the IAE is very good, and it will continue its work normally, just as that work has been done until now. And as director of the CTA, I may be able to help the national rocket program even more.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: Brazil is experiencing a rough period of financial difficulties. Do you believe that those problems may force a reduction in the pace of work at the CTA?

General Piva: I don't think so. Actually, we anticipated this difficult phase a few years ago and tried at that time to "squeeze our budget dry" by eliminating or postponing the less important programs so as to ensure that work on the others, which we considered priorities, would continue at a pace compatible with their timetables and requirements. I feel that the CTA will continue working in 1984 as it did in 1983, neither accelerating its programs nor falling behind with them. And I don't believe that the Brazilian authorities want to decelerate the activities of a research agency that is so important to the nation's progress, economy, and security.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: How did you go about selecting the less important projects you mentioned in your previous answer?

General Piva: Actually, all of the CTA's programs are important. In choosing the most urgent ones, we evaluated economic, scientific, social, and military factors. For example, one of the projects we were reluctantly forced to "put on the back burner" for a time involved the transport dirigible, not because it was unimportant but because there were other projects that were even more urgent and in a more advanced stage of execution. The choice was difficult for all of us, but it had to be made.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: How many people currently work at the Aerospace Technology Center?

General Piva: About 6,000, and their number is not going to change substantially in 1984. That total includes civilians and military, students, professors, researchers, scientists, workers, technical and office employees, and so on.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: What are the chief programs currently being worked on at the CTA?

General Piva: Several projects, all of them of great importance, are currently being carried out. One of them is called the Complete Space Mission. It involves development of a launch vehicle for artificial satellites. Another is the simulator for the T-27 airplane, and it is currently in its final stage as far as our responsibility is concerned. The Piranha missile is also at a quite advanced stage. There is also the effort to train technicians and engineers, as well as the help we provide in obtaining certification for new aircraft by EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. Those are just a few of our projects.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: The Sonda IV rocket is an important phase preceding development of the satellite launch vehicle [VLS]. When will the first Sonda IV fly?

General Piva: Sometime this year if all goes well. A rocket of this capacity involves the mastery of a long list of parallel technologies, and we have gained experience in virtually all of them by now. We are now in the phase of integrating the various systems and parts of the rocket, which is scheduled to lift off from Barreira do Inferno before the end of 1984 for its inaugural flight.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: Two private firms, one American and the other West German, are testing launch rockets of the same class as the future Brazilian VLS. Don't you feel that the market for this type of vehicle is going to be very competitive?

General Piva: Yes, I do. Regrettably, the available funds did not allow us to move ahead with the VLS as we would have liked by starting its tests in 1984. But I believe in the quality of the Brazilian rocket, and I feel that despite the competition, we will good good business with it when it goes into service at the end of this decade.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: What do you mean by "advanced stage" with reference to the T-27 simulator and the Piranha missile?

General Piva: We have nearly reached the end of the work for which we are directly responsible in connection with those two projects. The T-27 simulator was designed by us, and we tested each of its systems.

We are now in the phase of transferring those plans and that technology to private industry, which will mass produce the same simulator. This is also the case with the Piranha missile, for which we have produced an operational design model. Now it is up to us to pass on what was done to private firms, which will mass produce it. That is the normal procedure with any research organization like ours.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: Is the CTA carrying out any programs in cooperation with other government agencies or with private firms?

General Piva: Of course. For example, we are continuing our work in the field of alternative fuels and the engines that will use them under an agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. And we will soon begin tests on a remotely piloted vehicle that was developed by a private firm in Sao Carlos. That vehicle even uses a turbine that was developed by us. Supporting other government agencies and private industry is part of the CTA's mission.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: In your opinion, is it beneficial to the country to transfer the technology developed by the CTA to private firms?

General Piva: Of course. Notice that exactly the same procedure is followed in the world's most developed nations, and experience has already proven that every cruzeiro spent on research eventually multiplies into many cruzeiros if the research is applied to practical things.

New metallurgical technologies and new composite products, new electronic processes, promising discoveries in such fields as fuels and propulsion, and weapons of more modern design--all of that came about in the CTA's laboratories, was then transferred to private industry, and eventually saved the country valuable foreign exchange that had previously been spent to import parts, machinery, and systems that we now produce here.

It must not be forgotten that when an industry absorbs advanced technology, it grows more efficient, wins out in international competition, and earns valuable foreign exchange for the nation. Ultimately, the local development of technology avoids the waste represented by paying royalties for the use of processes and technologies imported from abroad.

TECNOLOGIA E DEFESA: Can it be said, then, that 1984 is going to be a good year for the CTA?

General Piva: It is going to be a year of work, like the previous years. We will have to overcome problems, and we are going to have the pleasure of successes achieved. That is the CTA's mission.

11798

CSO: 3342/144

COMPOSITION OF GOVERNOR NEVES' POSSIBLE CABINET VIEWED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jul 84 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] Brasilia--The succession picture has been crystallized, defined and settled for a long time around the candidacies of Paulo Maluf, Mario Andreazza and Tancredo Neves, but the past week served to dispel any doubts that might still have existed. That is obvious, if very unlikely surprises or setbacks do not occur. Once again, before President Joao Figueiredo, Paulo Maluf refused to admit the possibility of renouncing his ambition and, thereby, led not only Aureliano Chaves to abandon the illusion of unity in his party. Minister Leita0 de Abreu admitted to O ESTADO that the Social Democratic Party (PDS) is irretrievably disunited. The main topic becomes the almost daily assessment of the possibilities of the three presidential hopefuls until the conventions are held in a few weeks, when only two will be left: Maluf of Andreazza for the PDS and Tancredo Neves for the united Opposition supported by the PSD liberal dissidents.

There is no doubt that fortune smiled on the Minas governor today. Mathematically, he is elected; just as popularly, he is also the wide national favorite. Thus, there is no way one can resist the temptation of speculating about what his administration may be, not in programmatic terms but in terms of personnel. And it should not be thought that because we are engaging in a merely speculative exercise here that Tancredo Neves is not considering the question in an objective manner. He is, even though privately without confiding in anyone. The attempt, therefore, will be to seek possible points of contact between feasible possibilities and possible tendencies of the Minas governor.

Beginning with the palace ministers, the first name that arises is that of Roberto Gusmao as chief of the Civilian Household. Governor Franco Montoro will lose his right hand but Tancredo, once elected, will gain a completely trustworthy aide of demonstrated capacity. The chief of the Military Household and the chief of the National Intelligence Service (SNI) will come from the army rosters but it is difficult for the time being to name names. But the special minister for land-related affairs seems doomed to disappear. The National Security Council will return to the sphere of the Military Cabinet. With regard to the SNI, it may not be slighted but it will certainly be

subordinated. Among persons closest to the governor of Minas, there are those who advocate not the deactivation of the SNI but its subordination to the National Security Council as occurred before 1964. It appears unlikely that he is going to stir a hornet's nest, however, he will probably seek to give the intelligence agency a direction turned more toward the social and economic reality--less political and in no way repressive. In any case, vigilant toward subversion.

The Ministry of Justice has a privileged choice: Paulo Brossard, who would reestablish a sort of juridical majesty and would centralize the operation of restoring the tattered institutions. Because there is no doubt that party policy would be directed by Tancredo Neves himself.

Olavo Setubal emerges as the almost peaceful alternative for the economic leadership. It is more likely that he would occupy the Ministry of Finance, with the Secretariat of Planning being reduced to its natural size, of a presidential advisory office. Among the persons capable of occupying it are: Celso Furtado, Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Francisco Dornelles.

For industry and commerce, the choice may lead to a businessman, Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, if he is not made vice president in view of the legal difficulties that can block the way for Jose Sarney. Or Abilio Diniz. Since Tancredo will need to become reconciled in gender, number and degree with Aureliano Chaves, it is believed that Camilo Penna will be moved to mines and energy. Or some other Aureliano supporter will be appointed.

If Jose Sarney does not become vice president, he would have the Ministry of Education at his disposal. If he becomes the governor's running mate, Dona Esther Figueiredo Ferraz may very well be replaced by Jose Aparecido de Oliveira. The current secretary of culture of Minas Gerais will be a minister, in any case.

There are those who speculate about holding over another minister from the current government as a means of fostering national reconciliation. Perhaps Nestor Jost, of agriculture, who belonged to the old Social Democratic Party (PSD), but with his ministry reinforced with various agencies today transferred to the Secretariat of Planning (SEPLAN), such as the Brazilian Foods Company (COBAL).

Certain groups in the Foreign Ministry are already moving to draw close to Tancredo Neves. It has even been learned that a number of reports pertaining to the economic performance of the Alfonsin government in Argentina have ended up in Liberdade Palace [Minas governor's palace] through an intricate stream that runs through the economic department of the Foreign Ministry, SEPLAN and Federal Revenue, in this case simply because its director, Francisco Dornelles, is Tancredo's nephew. The foreign service will try to have the foreign minister picked from its ranks, but it will not be a surprise if he comes from outside. Would Walter Moreira Salles return?

We must speak also about the military ministries. General Leonidas Pires Gonçalves, present commander of the 3d Army, seems cut out to be a minister.

Brigadier Delio Jardim de Mattos will not remain only if he does not want to. If he does not, he will be asked to name his successor, who may be Brigadier Luis Felipe Carneiro de Lacerda Netto, present chief of the Civil Aeronautics Directorate (DAC). The possibility of Brigadier Waldir Vasconcelos, present minister-chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, also cannot be excluded. There will be prospective nominees in the navy and it is probable that there will be a request to the admiralty to name someone.

The Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) will have several ministers. Tancredo's intention would be to lend maximum prestige to his party. Thus, interior, communications, transportation, health and social welfare would go to PMDB personnel, mentioning among them, Mauro Benevides and Fernando Lyra, the latter if he is not chosen government leader in the chamber. Another who perhaps may prefer to continue in congress will be Ulysses Guimaraes, for whom the presidency of the chamber will be reserved. In any case, he will be one of the great influences of the future government. The possibility opens up for the Ministry of Labor to be offered to one of the smaller parties that make up the opposition front.

8711

CSO: 3342/141

NEVES VIEWS IMF, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, PARTY REFORM

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jul 84 p 4

[Article by Laerte Rimoli and Leticia Borges]

[Text] Brasilia--Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves does not accept being classified as a conservative in economic matters. Speaking yesterday as the virtual opposition candidate for the presidency of the republic, he declared that "breaking with the rules imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is implicit in my platform." He said also that the Housing Financing System (SFH) is outdated and needs to be completely revised, starting at square zero.

The Minas governor made these statements in an informal talk with FOLHA reporters after lunching in the restaurant of the National Theater of Brasilia with the president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), Ulysses Guimarães; First Vice President Pedro Simon; Secretary General Alfonso Camargo; and the leader of the party in the chamber, Freitas Nobre. Reclining in an armchair in Suite 822 of Hotel Nacional, Tancredo answered phone calls from fellow party members and surprised everyone with his disposition, inviting them for a chat. "I am not tired. We have an eternity to rest," the governor replied to Aluisio Alves (former governor of Rio Grande do Norte) and Roberto Gusmao (Sao Paulo government secretary) who, accompanied by Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PMDB--Sao Paulo) and former Deputy Miro Teixeira (PMDB--Rio de Janeiro) interrupted the talks with the newsmen.

Constituent

The priority of the Minas governor is to convene a National Constituent Assembly with the organized political forces of the country. After that event, he believes that social orderliness will be a natural consequence. Party reform is the next stage, in his opinion. Cautiously, Tancredo stressed that he will encounter great difficulties if he should become president but he made it a point to say that he is fully capable of effecting the "transition of Brazil." He admits also that the right is organized, which will be another complicating factor for his administration since its members will be in the opposition.

The judgment for selecting his vice presidential running mate will belong to the majority group of the aggregation that is putting him in the contest--the Liberal Front of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) will nominate the vice

president. And he will not impose any vetos: "I get along peacefully with all." The same is applicable to his party comrade, Ulysses Guimaraes, with whom he was connected for the greater part of his political career, and to the vice president of the republic, Aureliano Chaves. "They will get the position they want," said Tancredo. Including the governorship of Minas for Doctor Aureliano? "That depends on the vote and not on me."

Minimizing the "in the bag" attitude of bolder comrades, the governor of Minas said that the fight for power is the most sophisticated contest in which an individual can place himself. He availed himself of the experiences of other countries to justify that concern. He has no knowledge, however, that the military are worried about his candidacy: "They have no party and their duties are spelled out in the constitution." The aggregation of forces that plan to launch him for the presidency was called the "Democratic Alliance" by the governor.

Brizola and the PDT

As for the demands of the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, in order to support him, prominent among them being a 2-year term, Tancredo commented: "You can't require a politician such as Brizola to think like somebody from the PMDB. He has the right to establish conditions. I have the right to accept them or not." He did not stop there and recalled the recent defeat of the Rio governor at the last meeting of the Democratic Workers Party (PDT): "Even the party's name is changing without his concurrence. Senator Roberto Saturnino, a man of ideas, prefers that it be called the Socialist Party." The governor considered significant a statement by the national president of the PDT, Doutel de Andrade, and he repeated it: "We vote for Tancredo and afterwards we collect positions."

The political contacts he has been having in Brasilia merited a good-humored analogy from Tancredo. "They are like beaten egg whites. It is necessary to beat them for the cake to rise. Or if you prefer, we are embroidering the ladle." The fact is that the experienced politician did not waste a single minute in his day in Brasilia.

Before the luncheon with the PMDB leadership, Tancredo Neves told the press that his candidacy is not a "solicitation or imposition" and if it is not the result of the democratic conscience of the country, he will remain in Minas Gerais. "The state government is important that the democratic redemption of Brazil is more important at this time," he declared. He said again that the "Minas Agreement" is practically concluded and forewent the votes of the Minas Maluf followers because he considered them unassimilable in a really democratic aggregation.

At mid-morning Sunday, the presidential hopeful saw Deputies Carlos Santana (PMDB-Bahia), Dante de Oliveira (PMDB-Mato Grosso), Roberto Cardoso Alves (PMDBG-Sao Paulo), Mucio Ataide (PMDB-Roraima), Walber Guimaraes (PMDB-Para) and Milton Reis (PMDB-Minas Gerais).

Confident of his physical condition, the governor of Minas did not lose his good humor even when the reporter commented that anonymous pamphlets distributed in Belo Horizonte and Brasilia warned the population about his age, 74 years, which will be 80 at the end of the 6-year term established in the constitution. He made a remark about the 6 years, saying that "the ideal, even by the republican tradition of Brazil, would be a period of 4 years, but I have nothing to worry about."

And he concluded, making it clear that he considers himself the winner in the Electoral College: "Pope John XXIII revolutionized the Church at 78 years of age. Adenauer was one of the greatest statesmen the world has ever known and he governed when he was over 80. Sandro Pertini in Italy is a legend. I am going to study the lives of the 'old men'; the arguments to knock down this type of criticism will be easier. I will end my administration together with President Reagan."

8711

CSO: 3342/141

CONFIDENTIAL STUDY ANALYZES GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC OPTIONS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Jul 84 p 21

[Text] Brasilia--In the event that the next government continues the current program of adjustment of the economy, the country's per capita income will not return to 1980 levels (\$2,383) until 1990. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is going to grow at an average of 4.5 percent in the period 1985-90, but that rate will not be enough to absorb the manpower that enters the labor market annually, thus increasing unemployment. The expectation is that the so-called "informal market" or "invisible economy" may grow from 24 million to 36 million persons in that period.

The forecasts are part of a study prepared by the Planning Department of the National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES), stamped confidential, which is circulating among the offices of the Planning Ministry in Brasilia. Under the title, "Scenarios for the Brazilian Economy," the document analyzes two economic options for the next government.

The first envisages maintenance of the current policy of adjustment of the economy, while the second alternative considers the resumption of economic growth, which has as its basic assumption a more generous and longer-term renegotiation of the foreign debt.

The first option (resumption of economic growth) [as published] estimates an average growth of the GDP of 7 percent per annum in the period 1985-90. In this way, the 1980 per capita income would be regained in 1987 and the general increase of the employment level would be enough to absorb the vegetative growth and even absorb a considerable portion of the unemployed and under-employed of the recession period.

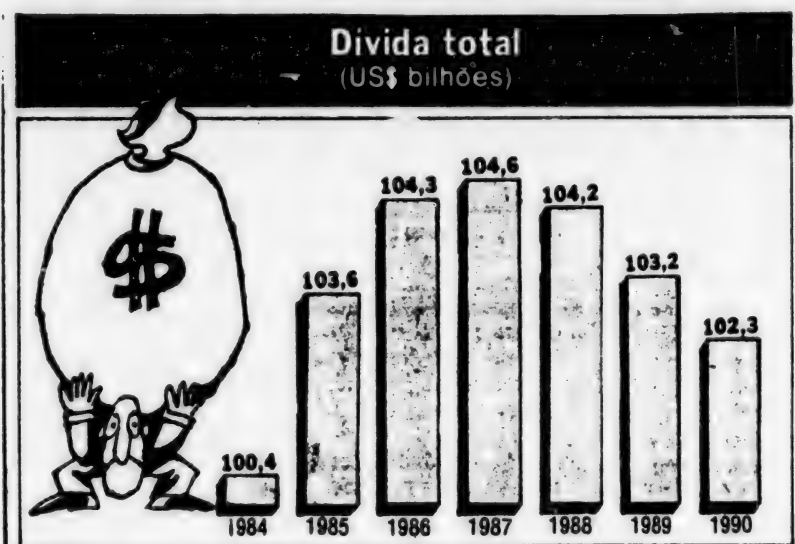
In both alternatives, Brazilian exports would grow an average of 6.2 percent per annum. The difference, however, would lie in the fact that the balance of the trade balance would be greater in the option of maintenance of the adjustment policy, going from \$15.2 billion next year to \$21 billion at the end of 1990. In the case of the resumption of growth, those surpluses would go from \$15.7 billion (1985) to \$18.9 billion (1990).

Another difference is that in the first option, Brazil would begin to pay the interests and part of the principal of its foreign debt beginning in 1988,

while the total volume of the debt would remain at \$102 billion up to the end of 1990. In the resumption of growth option, it would be possible to pay the 1985 interest fully and, beginning the following year, there would already be sufficient breathing-space even to amortize part of the principal. The final debt for 1990 would be \$80 billion, well below the current \$100 billion.

Another question raised is that to obtain a resumption of economic growth it will be necessary to: reduce the interest on the debt by eliminating or drastically reducing the spreads (risk rate); set long grace and principal amortization periods; and establish a maximum interest rate to be paid, capitalizing the excess when necessary.

TOTAL DEBT (in billions of dollars)



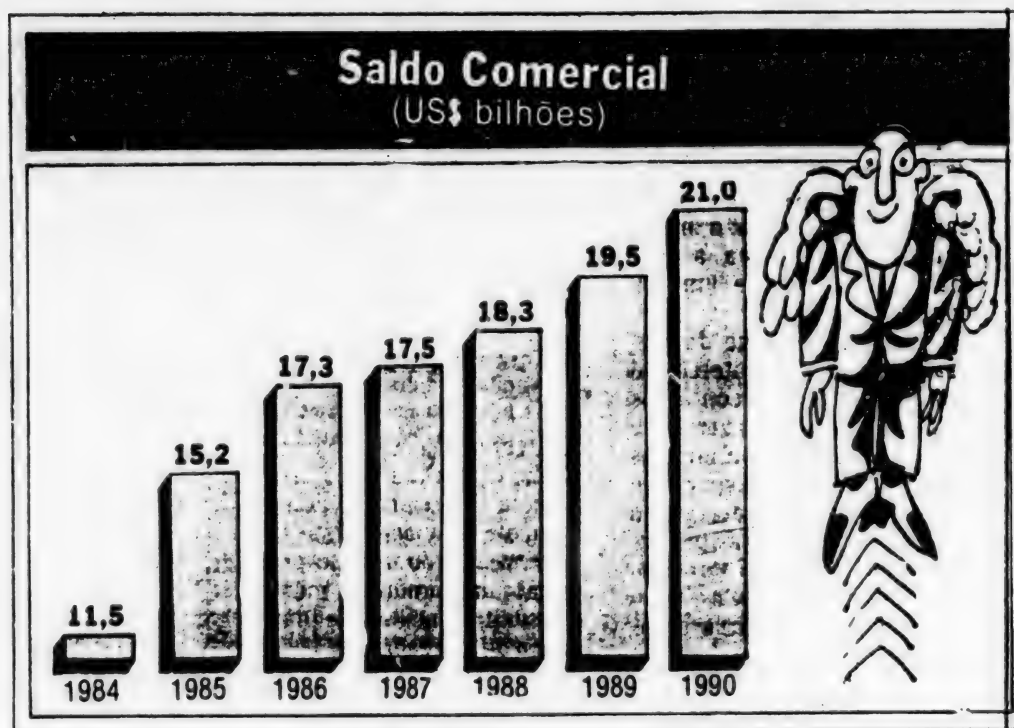
INTEREST PAID (in billions of dollars)



SERVICES (EXCLUDING INTEREST) (in billions of dollars)



TRADE BALANCE (in billions of dollars)



8711

CSO: 3342/141

VENTURINI DEEMS EMERGENCE OF NEW PDS CANDIDATE UNLIKELY

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Danilo Venturini, the special minister for land-related affairs, yesterday considered it "very unlikely" that a new Social Democratic Party (PDS) candidate would emerge at this state of the succession process. According to the minister, the so-called "third name" could only arise through arrangements originating within the government party itself, since President Figueiredo plans to remain equidistant from the candidates.

In an interview given yesterday shortly before returning to Brasilia, Venturini commented that, in not interfering directly in the candidate selection process, Figueiredo is being consistent with his democratic liberalization plan. According to Venturini, previously the president of the republic had exceptional powers to name the candidate stemming from the institutional acts that were in effect, but now Figueiredo has delegated the management of the process to the politicians. According to the minister, the uproar that that stand is causing shows that the country is not yet accustomed to democracy.

Venturini does not believe that maintaining the current political situation--with the support of the PDS dissidents for the candidate of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), Governor Tancredo Neves--implies the defeat of the PDS candidate in the Electoral College. According to the minister, an agreement between the rank-and-file of the PDS and the PMDB will be very difficult. He believes that the fact of a dissident leader of the PDS supporting the governor will not necessarily lead the state delegates to vote for Tancredo in the Electoral College.

"It is difficult in an open vote to support the candidate of the opposing party," he pointed out.

Venturini was of the opinion that there is no definite trend among the PDS convention delegates and, therefore, it cannot be said that there is a favorite. He said that he had not had knowledge of the figures that Deputy Paulo Maluf showed Figueiredo last Wednesday and commented that the other candidate, Minister Mario Andreazza, also alleges that he has the party majority.

The minister declared that none of the president's aides seek to be candidates, denying the stories that the chief of the ministry household, Rubem Ludwig, was a would-be candidate.

BRIEFS

TRADE SURPLUS FIGURES--Rio--The director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil (CACEX), Carlos Viacava, announced in Rio that, as of yesterday, Brazil had already achieved a surplus of \$7 billion in its 1984 trade balance. He added that this result makes it possible to expect that the new goal of an \$11 billion surplus for 1984, \$2 billion higher than the original estimate, "will be surpassed with some to spare." Even so, Viacava predicts that July will not be "as bright as June" because exports will be well below \$2.5 billion, while imports will exceed \$1.3 billion. But he asserted that there will be a favorable balance of over \$1 billion. According to him, it will not be difficult for the country to maintain a monthly average trade balance surplus of \$1 billion until the end of the year. If that prediction should be confirmed, Brazil will be able to close the year with a favorable balance of \$12 billion for its foreign trade operations. Viacava said that the growth of exports is due mainly to the U.S. economic recovery because sales to the United States made up for the declines in trade with African and Latin American countries. For the latter, exports dropped from \$2.5 billion to \$500 million. He added that the good performance in the first quarter showed that Brazil is selling more and not benefiting from foreign market prices. He explained that during that period there was a 23 percent increase over export figures for the same period in 1983. Of that result, 20 percent was due to the physical increase, that is, of products sold, and between 1 and 2 percent, in terms of the recovery of prices. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jul 84 p 30] 8711

CSO: 3342/141

CUBA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING VISIT TO TANZANIA

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 27, 6 Jul 84 p 79

[Joint communique on the visit of Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to Tanzania, issued in Dar es Salaam on 26 May]

[Text] Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Communist Party Central Committee and minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, made an official and friendly visit to the United Republic of Tanzania from 24 to 26 May 1984 in response to an invitation of comrade Benjamin William Mkapa, minister of foreign affairs.

During his stay, the Cuban foreign minister was received by Julius K. Nyerere, chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party and president of the United Republic of Tanzania, to whom he conveyed the fraternal greetings sent by comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The Cuban delegation also was received by comrade Ali Hassan Mwinyi, vice president of the United Republic of Tanzania, and comrade Salim A. Salim, prime minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The foreign ministers of Tanzania and Cuba exchanged views on international problems and informed each other on the existing situation in their respective countries, making special emphasis on the development of bilateral relations.

The two sides concurred with the subjects covered and expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful relations of friendship and cooperation established between the two countries. They reaffirmed the willingness to continue to expand and strengthen political, economic, scientific-technical and cultural ties for mutual benefit.

The Cuban side appreciated the efforts made by the Tanzanian people for the socioeconomic development of the country and their firm determination to overcome the difficulties aimed at preventing the building of a new society.

The Tanzanian side valued the achievements of the Cuban people in the building of socialism and their efforts to strengthen defense, their sovereignty and their territorial integrity. In this regard, it expressed its concern over the continuous economic blockade of Cuba in violation of international law and the continued occupation of the Guantanamo canal base territory against the expressed wishes of the Cuban people.

On examining the international situation, the two ministers reaffirmed the urgent need to halt the arms race, to struggle for peace and to prevent the unleashing of a nuclear war of disastrous consequences for mankind.

The two sides agreed on the seriousness of the current world economic crisis which manifests itself with particular force in the underdeveloped countries; and they underscored the imperative need to continue the common struggle for the establishment of a more just and equitable new international economic order. In this regard, they urged that worldwide negotiations be undertaken immediately under the auspices of the United Nations system.

The minister of foreign affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, comrade Benjamin Mkapa, informed the minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba on the current situation in southern Africa and on the efforts undertaken by Africa and the frontline states to achieve the independence of Namibia and eradication of apartheid in South Africa. In this context, he strongly rejected all attempts to link the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola. The Cuban minister of foreign relations expressed his satisfaction with such efforts and reaffirmed his country's continued support for the liberation struggle and expressed support for the final communique of the chiefs of state of the frontline states issued in Arusha, Tanzania, on 29 April 1984.

The two sides also emphasized the imperative need that the African countries and the world's progressive forces had to offer effective assistance to the liberation movements of Namibia and South Africa in their just struggle for the unconditional independence of Namibia and elimination of apartheid in South Africa. In this regard, the Cuban foreign minister reiterated the backing of his country to the frontline states as well as to the liberation movements. The two sides supported the joint declaration signed on 19 March 1984 by the presidents of Cuba and Angola, stressing that the declaration represents a base of principles for any negotiated settlement aimed at eliminating the current tension and safeguarding the peace and full independence of the countries of this region.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the Western Sahara people's struggle for their self-determination and independence led by the Polisario Front. They also expressed serious concern over the deterioration of the situation in Western Sahara. In this context, they underscored the need to find a solution to the Western Sahara problem through direct negotiations between the Kingdom of Morocco and Polisario Front in accordance with the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and recommendations of the nonaligned countries and United Nations.

Regarding the situation in Chad, the two sides expressed support for a solution which respects the legitimate interests of the Chadian people in accordance with OAU resolutions.

The two ministers emphasized the importance of the OAU and the outstanding role it plays in defense of the legitimate rights of the African nations, against colonialism, racism and apartheid. They expressed confidence that this organization will overcome the difficulties that are affecting it and, once again, will win against the enemies that are trying to divide the organization.

When discussing the situation in Central America, the two sides backed the right of the countries to adopt the political and economic system of their choice. They called, therefore, for the scrupulous respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries of that region. They further reaffirmed their support for and solidarity with the people and government of Nicaragua, which is a victim of foreign destabilization. Likewise, they supported the search for a political solution to the conflict in El Salvador through the efforts of the Contadora Group in its endeavors for a peaceful solution to the problems of the region.

The ministers reaffirmed their support for the just cause of the people of Puerto Rico for self-determination and independence and reiterated their solidarity with all struggling peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On examining the situation in the Middle East, the two sides noted that it is not possible to find a just and lasting solution to the problem until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are recognized. Recognizing this fact, the two sides expressed their support for holding an international conference on the Middle East situation under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The two sides further reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign and independent state and called for the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories.

The two sides pointed out that continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq does not serve the best interests of the people of the two countries, and seriously endangers the security and stability of the Middle East countries. The two sides, therefore, called for a quick end to military actions and supported the appeal made by the nonaligned countries summit conference in New Delhi that the two countries solve their problem through negotiations.

The two ministers noted the importance of the Nonaligned Countries Movement and the influential role it plays on the international scene.

In this regard, the two sides reaffirmed their support for the results of the 7th Nonaligned Countries Summit Conference held in New Delhi. The policy of the nonaligned countries designed to strengthen peace, disarmament and eliminate the threat of war and local conflicts is a valuable contribution

to the efforts aimed at stability of international relations. Strengthening the unity of this movement is, therefore, more important and significant.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the excellent results of the visit of the Cuban delegation to Tanzania, characterized by a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, which effectively helped to strengthen the traditional bilateral ties that bind the peoples and governments of Tanzania and Cuba.

Minister Isidoro Malmierca expressed gratitude for the warm and hospitable welcome given to his delegation during its visit and invited the minister of foreign affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, comrade Benjamin Mkapa, to make an official and friendly visit to Cuba, which was accepted with gratitude.

Dar es Salaam, 26 May 1984.

9925

CSO: 3248/738

VISIT TO MALI CONCLUDES IN JOINT STATEMENT

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 26, 29 Jun 84 pp 78-79

[Text] Responding to an invitation extended by Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign relations and international cooperation of the Republic of Mali, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, made an official friendship visit to the Republic of Mali from 16 to 19 May 1984.

During his visit, the minister of foreign relations of the Republic of Cuba, and the delegation that accompanied him, had an audience with Army General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union Party of the Malian People and president of the Republic of Mali. There they conveyed greetings from the president of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

The Cuban and Malian delegations held official talks in a climate of friendship, characterized by mutual understanding and shared points of view on the analysis of the topics discussed.

The Cuban and Malian delegations engaged in a fruitful and profound exchange of opinions and information regarding the economic, political and social activities being carried out in their respective countries, in which an arduous struggle against underdevelopment is being waged in order to build a more just society.

Participating on behalf of Cuba were:

- Giraldo Mazola, vice-minister of foreign relations
- Raul Barzaga, assistant director for Sub-Saharan Africa
- Eduardo Balbin, Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Mali

Participating on behalf of Mali were:

- Mamadou Bandiougou Diawara, technical consultant to the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation
- Souleymane Kouyate, technical consultant to the Plan Ministry
- Macki Aguibou Koureissy Tall, director general of International Cooperation

—Mrs Mariko Aminata Toure, deputy chief of the Political Division of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation

Both delegations stressed the importance of economic and scientific-technical cooperation in the strengthening of the ties of friendship between the peoples and governments of Cuba and Mali. They also expressed support for the forging of stronger ties between the youth, mass, and social organizations of the two countries, as well as other institutions, in order to exchange experiences to facilitate increasing mutual understanding of the life, work and progress in the building of a new society.

The two sides also examined the positive results of existing cooperation between the two countries, and reaffirmed their willingness to continue working to enhance such cooperation, in accordance with the interests of the two nations. In this regard, they stressed the importance of the agreements signed during the 2nd Session of the Inter-Government Mixed Commission on Cooperation, held in Havana in October 1983.

The Mali delegation expressed its satisfaction with the successes of the Cuban people in the consolidation of revolutionary power, and its conviction that Cuba will achieve new and greater successes in building socialism. The Malians paid a warm tribute to the brave people of Cuba for their defense of their independence and sovereignty, and, in keeping with that, for their practice of proletarian internationalism and solidarity with the national liberation struggles of the peoples of the world.

The Malian delegation thus reaffirmed its support and solidarity for the firm resolve of the Cuban people to face these new threats, and called for the immediate end of the economic blockade that has been imposed on Cuba for more than two decades now. It also urged respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cuba, particularly its sovereign rights to the territory occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base.

The Cuban delegation reaffirmed its profound solidarity and support for the people of the Republic of Mali, under the leadership of their president, Army General Moussa Traore, in their selfless struggle to eradicate the inherited scourge of colonial exploitation, to achieve economic development and social well-being, to consolidate their conquests and to defend their independence.

In analyzing the international situation, both parties expressed common viewpoints regarding the blame shared by the reactionary forces for the heightening of tensions and the dangers that threaten world peace.

Cuba and Mali believe that the enormous difficulties and consequences stemming from the world economic crisis are aggravating the economic and social injustice that exists on our planet, and pose a crucial problem for humanity. The solution to this problem requires the establishment of a new international economic order that is just and equitable, that promotes the integral development of nations, and that progressively reduces inequalities among nations.

In assessing the current situation in Central America and the Caribbean, the two ministers expressed their solidarity with the people and government of

Nicaragua. They also expressed their concern about the threats to Nicaragua's territorial integrity, to international law and to freedom of navigation.

Both delegations welcomed the initiatives and efforts made by the Contadora Group in order to find a solution to the serious tensions in Central America, especially in El Salvador, and to ensure a climate of peace and detente to allow for the full exercise of sovereignty and self-determination.

The Cuban and Malian ministers, discussing the events that took place in Grenada, emphasized that any foreign intervention in the affairs of other nations poses a threat to peace and international security, pursuant to United Nations resolutions.

With reference to the situation in Africa, the two parties expressed identical points of view on the problems that currently afflict the African continent.

As for the situation in Namibia, the Cuban and Malian delegations reaffirmed their total solidarity with the struggle being carried out by the Namibian people, under the leadership of SWAPO, their only legitimate representative; and demanded that the racist South African troops abandon their occupation of Namibian territory.

Both sides reaffirmed that the real solution to the Namibian problem lies in strict compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, and rejected any attempt to link Namibian independence with the departure of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola.

They also condemned the policy of destabilization and aggression being pursued by the South African racists against the Frontline States and Lesotho, and demanded that the attacks against those countries cease and that troops withdraw immediately from the territory they are occupying illegally in the Peoples Republic of Angola.

The two sides reaffirmed their total support and solidarity with the heroic struggle of the best sons of the South African nation against racism and Apartheid, and for the advent of a free, democratic and just society in South Africa.

With regard to the situation in the Western Sahara, the two delegations reaffirmed their support for the resolutions of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), particularly Resolution 104, adopted by the 19th Conference of Chiefs of State and Government, which exhorts the two conflicting parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to engage in direct negotiations with a view to arriving at a cease-fire agreement and creating the necessary conditions to hold a referendum for the overall, free self-determination of the Western Sahara.

As for the prevailing situation in the Horn of Africa, the two countries expressed their concern regarding the increased tensions in the area, which seriously threaten peace and stability in that region and in Africa as a whole.

In this regard, the two delegations emphasized the urgent need for a peaceful settlement pursuant to the principles of non-interference in the affairs of states, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and respect for the borders inherited at the time of independence.

Both ministers came out in favor of a solution to the problem in Chad that would serve the legitimate interests of the Chadian people and would adhere to the resolutions of the OAU in that regard.

The two delegations stressed the importance of the OAU's role in supporting the struggles of the peoples of Africa and their contribution to strengthening the actions of African nations to eliminate colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and Apartheid, and they called upon the African states to work to strengthen unity and cohesion in this important organization.

In analyzing the complex situation in the Middle East, the two parties reaffirmed their conviction that only through Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the recognition of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the enjoyment of their own independent state, under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative, will it be possible for that part of the world to enjoy a just, stable and lasting peace.

They also expressed their profound concern about the intensification of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and declared their solidarity with the just struggle these people are waging against the goals of the imperialist-Zionists.

The two parties expressed their concern about the confrontations between Iraq and Iran, and exhorted the two states to undertake the necessary actions to achieve a fair and honorable political solution to that conflict, which would benefit both nations and would help strengthen unity within the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The two sides share the opinion that the uncontrolled advance of the arms race and the astronomical increase in military spending pose a dangerous threat to international peace and security, and prevent the use of resources for the needs of development. Without peace there can be no development, and without development there can be no peace.

The two delegations emphasized the historical importance of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the influential role it plays in the international sphere. They also stressed their resolve to work for the implementation of the Final Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the 7th Summit Conference of Chiefs of State, and indicated that the activities undertaken by the Movement in recent years are obvious proof of the unstoppable advance of peoples in their struggles against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism and Apartheid, against the economic and social inequalities that persist in this world, and for the achievement of a new international economic order.

The Cuban and Malian delegations congratulated themselves for the results of the visit and for the climate of friendship and brotherhood in which the talks took place, and indicated that this occasion has made a great contribution to the strengthening of existing relations between the peoples and governments of Cuba and the Republic of Mali.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca expressed, on behalf of his country's delegation, profound gratitude for the sincere and brotherly welcome they had received from the people of Mali, their minister of foreign relations and other members of the government and state of the Republic of Mali.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca extended an invitation to Malian Minister of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation Alioune Blondin Beye to make a friendly official visit to the Republic of Cuba. The invitation was gratefully accepted. Its date will be set later.

Bamako, 19 May 1984.

For the Government of the
Republic of Cuba

Isidoro Malmierca,
Minister of Foreign Relations

For the Government of the
Republic of Mali

Alioune Blondin Beye,
Minister of Foreign Relations and
International Cooperation

8926
CSO: 3248/737

TRINIDAD, TOBAGO CALLED VITAL TO CARICOM'S FUTURE

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in English Jul 84 pp 8-9

[Text]

▼ The fifth summit conference of heads of state of the Caribbean Economic Community (*Caricom*) will have the choice when it meets in Nassau at the beginning of July whether to preserve the crumbling unity of the region or head further down the road to separation.

The capital of the Bahamas will be the scene of the bitter strife that has torn *Caricom* since the US invasion of Grenada last October.

The usual questions of economics, finance, and trade will now take second place to the political difficulties of the organisation.

The third summit, held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in 1982, and the fourth in Trinidad and Tobago in July last year revealed increasing tension, but the desire for unity had so far prevailed.

Until the US attack on Grenada, backed by several members of *Caricom*, the region's economic relations had often been stormy but never reached breaking point.

One can only speculate on the outcome of the Nassau conference. The influential *Trinidad Guardian* newspaper, published in Port of Spain, revealed recently that the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, George Chambers, would not attend the meeting despite his position as acting chairman of the body.

In this case the newspaper expected the Trinidadian government to send a delegation headed by Communications Minister Errol Mahabir.

Trinidad and Tobago, the most powerful of the English-speaking Caribbean countries, is vital to the unity of *Caricom*, which is highly dependent on its financial contributions, the size of its markets, its share of regional trade, and its political weight. Chambers' absence from Nassau would ensure the organisation's continuing decline or else immediate

disintegration.

At the Jamaica summit Port of Spain led the revival of *Caricom* after nearly seven years of apathy towards it by West Indian governments.

When Chambers came to power after the death of Eric Williams, father of the nation, Trinidad and Tobago's foreign policy took a new turn.

Thanks to Chambers, Grenada was able to keep its place in *Caricom* under the revolutionary government of the late Maurice Bishop when the Trinidadian delegation at the Jamaica summit foiled a US plot to isolate Grenada from the rest of the community.

At the fourth summit in Port of Spain Chambers again defended the Bishop government against attacks from other *Caricom* leaders.

The Trinidadian cabinet was taken by surprise by news of the Grenada invasion several hours after the US marines and rangers had begun their landing.

The night before, Chambers had spoken against any military action against Grenada, calling for moderation, sense, and respect for the sovereignty of the Grenadian people.

But his advice was ignored by Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, St Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia, which helped in the invasion and still have 500 troops on Grenada.

As host of the extraordinary meeting of *Caricom* held two days before the invasion, Trinidad and Tobago was humiliated by these seven governments, which proceeded to "invite" the Pentagon to intervene.

Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Belize and the Bahamas bravely raised their voices in protest at the invasion.

From then on the old cracks in *Caricom* deepened and new wounds were opened. The organisation is plagued by doubts and distrust. With enough wisdom and

maturity at Nassau it may yet be saved, in a direct challenge to the divisive efforts of the US.

The seven countries which joined in the Grenada invasion march arm in arm under Washington's umbrella, and it is assumed they will form a common front at the Bahamas summit.

Guyana, because of its progressive stance and especially vehement condemnation of US military intervention, has been branded the "black sheep" of *Caricom* and is threatened with expulsion.

Whatever the grudges held against Trinidad and Tobago it is realised that *Caricom* would fall apart without the membership of this oil owning country with the economic strength and political will to go its own way.

When Trinidad and Tobago announced austerity measures to readjust its finances and protect its domestic markets in view of the chronic decline of the other members of *Caricom*, regional trade was brought almost to a standstill.

Jamaica is in severe financial difficulties, languishing under the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is keeping it begging for an emergency loan of a mere US\$180 million.

Barbados is heading in the same direction, though it has announced that it will be able to improve on last year's zero growth rate.

Guyana faces the refusal of the financial institutions based in Washington to grant loans under the usual conditions.

The little islands of the Eastern Caribbean, meanwhile, all docile followers of the US line, are pinning their hopes on the new gunboats issued by the US

Defence Department to "scare off communist subversion" and jointly patrol their coastlines.

Caricom, as an organisation for economic integration, is on its last legs. There is hardly any trade, as the US\$100 million multilateral clearing facility to fund transactions between members of the community ran out several months ago.


Most members have not paid their contributions to this fund. What trade remains is in barter form.

The young Jamaican economist Roderick Rainford, general secretary of *Caricom*, recommends this kind of trade until the financial situation of the members improves.

Like the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Rainford laments the excessive consumerism, copied from the West, which plagues the West Indies with their weak and dependent industries.

He gives as an example the vast imports of food, at the cost of regional agricultural products. With barely 5 million inhabitants the organisation spends US\$600 million a year on food from abroad.

The governments and peoples of the West Indies have three vital tasks ahead of them: the consolidation of their independence, revival of regional unity, and economic development and mutual cooperation in the face of the greedy advance from the north.

Nassau may turn out to be proof of the good sense of the English-speakers of the Caribbean, or the final tomb of the hopes born 11 years ago in Trinidad when *Caricom* was founded to unite the islands freed from British colonial rule. 

POLISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ATTACKS U.S. POLICY

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 22 Jul 84 p 10

[Article by Orlando Oramas Leon]

[Text] ● EVERY TUESDAY a soft-spoken, relaxed Jerzy Urban, writer, political journalist, humorist and spokesman for the Polish government, meets with the foreign press to tell the truth about events in his country.

Urban's visit to Cuba at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was his first to this side of the Atlantic. It was also on a Tuesday when he gave a press conference for national and foreign journalists, coming out with flying colors.

In 1981, during the acute political crisis, there were numerous spokesmen in Poland, some for the enemies, some for the allies of socialism. Following the declaration of the state of war in December that year, Jerzy Urban was designated spokesman for the government. At that time, there was a large number of Western correspondents accredited in Warsaw and the slander campaigns against Poland were in full swing.

In his press conference in Havana, Jerzy Urban explained that he works with a team making up a governmental bureau. This team, he said, is composed of young journalists and activists who gather information on what's going on in Poland, which he later reports to the foreign press in his weekly press conferences.

"Our work is especially designed to meet the demands of public opinion and, although the meetings with the foreign press have had a certain resonance, the main purpose of our work is to combat the lies and satisfy the Polish people's demand that we counter the propaganda that is being spread about Poland.

"We are fully aware of the different viewpoints expressed in this propaganda. The opposition and its clandestine activities enjoy wide support from abroad, and Western radio stations' combined broadcasting time for anti-Polish propaganda is 36 hours a day.

"There have been times when the CIA's Radio Free Europe has repeated over 200 times the time and place of an opposition action. Then only a handful of people may go, but the station makes it sound as if a huge crowd turned out. This is their aggressive propaganda, and my colleagues and I have achieved certain success in combating this type of action, revealing the falsehood behind the statements.

"The attacks on Poland are not limited to

this barrage of imperialist propaganda. The Warsaw authorities presented a white book on the restrictions levied by the United States after December 13, 1981.

"The Reagan administration declared a partial boycott on our exports, declared U.S. jurisdictional waters out of bounds to Polish fishing boats and prohibited the Polish airline from landing at U.S. airports. It also blocked our attempts to take part in the International Monetary Fund and, what's worse, dealt Poland's economy a serious blow by having Western banks suspend credits agreed on with our country. The Reagan administration's hostile policy cost Poland 13 000 million dollars."

Later on in the press conference, Urban said that, as the situation in Poland becomes more stabilized, the Reagan administration modifies its conditions and demands.

"They no longer speak of a dialogue with Solidarity because the organization is practically nonexistent. What they are trying to do now is use Poland in their strategy for aggression against the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist camp."

Poland is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its liberation from fascism. In these 40 years, it has changed completely and achieved unquestionable success in the construction of socialism. But there were also "unpleasant episodes as a result of errors made by the ruling party and government that were taken advantage of by the enemies of the system.

"Poland is emerging from the political and social crisis. We have also succeeded in braking economic decline and there is now slow development with a view to reaching the 1979 level.

"Despite the complexities, the opposition, now reduced to small clandestine groups, has no popular support to speak of. This was demonstrated by the results of the People's Council election, when 75 percent of the people voted despite the opposition's calls for a boycott.

"Profound changes are now taking place in Poland. Methods of power and social relations are being changed without detriment to the principles of our system. And we are also resisting pressure from the United States which had set its hopes on Poland for destabilizing socialism."

AUSTRALIA BLAMED FOR FAILURE OF UN CONFERENCE ON SUGAR

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 22 Jul 84 p 4

[Text] ● CUBA SINGLED out Australia as the one largely to blame for the failure of the UN Conference on Sugar.

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Amadeo Blanco Valdés-Fauly told Prensa Latina that the Australian delegation not only blocked an economic agreement but did all it could to prevent the meeting from even arriving at an administrative agreement.

In the final stage of the talks on a new international sugar agreement, there were two proposals regarding the concept of what a new administrative agreement should include.

On the one hand, the Cuban delegation, supported by all the other socialist countries and many Latin American and other underdeveloped countries, held that it was necessary to maintain the concept of a free sugar market.

On the other hand, the Australian delegation, backed by the United States, wanted the agreement to include what they called the total market.

This was a clear attempt to include Cuba's special agreements on the sale of sugar to socialist countries.

These agreements have always been respected in international sugar agreements including the 1977, 1973, and other prior pacts.

The Australian position was so intransigent that a vote became necessary. There were only two in its favor: its own and that of New Zealand.

Amadeo Blanco noted that even the U.S. delegation, which had been the main sponsor of the Australian proposal, did not dare vote against Cuba for fear of being isolated.

The main objective of the administrative agreement was to keep the International Sugar Organization alive and to continue providing statistical data.

However, the main objective of the Conference was an economic agreement that would control the market and provide for balanced prices.

The head of the Cuban delegation told Prensa Latina that Cuba had gone to Geneva seeking an economic agreement given the importance of such an agreement for underdeveloped sugar exporting countries.

Regrettably, the Australian delegation, which represents a developed sugar exporting country, prevented this.

Deputy Minister Blanco said Cuba will continue doing all it can in the framework of the new administrative agreement to promote international cooperation, especially with regards to sugar, the chief export of the Cuban economy.

The new administrative agreement goes into effect January 1, 1985, when the 1977 agreement expires.


The UN Conference on Sugar started work in May 1983, and three rounds of negotiations in Geneva and four meetings in London have met with no success.

CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. INTEREST RATE HIKES SAID TO BE COSTLY

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 22 Jul 84 p 2

[Article by George Carriazo Moreno]

[Text]



IN RECENT days, the press and other news media have been reporting on the latest interest rate hike in the United States and the concern over this not only of the governments of debtor countries but also in broad circles linked to international economics and finance.

The rise of the prime rate to 13 percent in the United States and

the events which have stemmed from it pose a number of questions which we should answer.

The questions include the following: Why are interest rates going up in the United States? Why does an increase in interest rates mean that the debtor countries, especially those of Latin America, must pay more in debt service charges, that is, interests and payments on the principal

received in the loan? What consequences does the interest rate hike have for the world economy? What is the outlook for solving this problem of interest rates and the debt in general?

The problem of high interest rates is undoubtedly one of the most pressing at this time. But why is it important?

First of all, we must bear in mind the very important role played by credit in all its forms in the present stage of development of both national and international economic relations. Credit and its direct outgrowth, interest rates, are present in all foreign trade operations, in financing for investments, or simply in capital loans in the form of money to be used as the recipient wishes. Given the uncertainty created by the crisis, this latter form has become dominant in the last few years, that is, so-called loan capital, especially in the short term (for repayment in a year or less). But what is the interest rate?

While in practice interest is the "price of money" and the rate the relationship between this "price" and the total capital loaned out, in actual fact we can say that the interest is the part of earnings or income which, in the final analysis, is only created in the course of production and which is appropriated by the entity giving out the loan for the mere fact of being the owner of the capital-money.

The rate of interest depends on the supply and demand for loan capital, the competition between different banking monopolies both nationally and internationally, inflation (which is reflected in the increase of all prices) and in general the economic situation at a given time.

Now, the governments of capitalist countries try to regulate economic activity, that is, the unfolding of the economic cycle, in order to avoid a crisis by resorting to various methods of economic manipulation. Credit, interest rates, the money in circulation, the government budget, taxes, and other elements are used as instruments or levers toward this end. All these factors shape the economic policy of capitalist countries.

In general, the interest rate hike is caused by the current economic crisis. As Karl Marx explained in Volume III of Capital, interest rates reach their highest level during periods of crisis, when it is necessary to obtain loans regardless of the price in order to make payments.

As a confirmation of the above, the U.S. interest rate hike, whose negative consequences fall on the rest of the world, especially the debt-ridden nations of Latin America, has two basic causes.

First, the worsening international financial situation as a result of the economic crisis that started in the '80s with the United States as its focal point.

Second, the policy adopted by the Reagan administration to promote the recovery of absolute power by the United States; in both economic and political terms. This has limited the supply of bank credit in order to reduce inflation; it has cut taxes, especially for big corporations to encourage investment; and it has increased military expenditure. These measures have tended to increase government spending and reduce income, creating a huge U.S. budget deficit of about 200 000 million dollars.

During the last years the deficit has increased, but at a faster pace in the '80s under the Reagan administration, and an even bigger deficit is expected.

This deficit which stems from the economic crisis and Washington's aggressive policy must be financed with loans that the government gets on the private capital market. This means greater demand for loan capital and causes higher interest rates. On the other hand, by restricting the credit the Federal Reserve banks give to commercial banks as part of the anti-inflation policy, the supply of capital is cut down and the interest rate hike encouraged.

As a result of these two factors, the commercial banks in turn raise their prime rates (for their best clients). The increase in the prime rate is an indication of the risk they feel in lending capital in times of crisis.

Moreover, we must add the fact that, ever since World War II, the United States has imposed on the world a monetary and financial system based on the use of the dollar as the most important international means of payment and U.S. domination of all financial institutions in the capitalist world.

The almost total dependency of the international capitalist monetary and financial system on U.S. decisions and economic policy is shown by the following facts:

- Because of its number of votes, the United States has control over the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- U.S. dollars accounted for 71 percent of international foreign exchange reserves in late 1982.¹
- U.S. dollars accounted for 75 percent of all currencies participating in the Euromarket.²
- Ninety percent of the foreign debt of the underdeveloped countries is tabulated in dollars, so in a period of interest rate hikes this means higher debt service charges.³

From the above it is easy to see how the influence of U.S. interest rates spreads all over the world. But how does this affect debtors?

The latest reports on the foreign debt of underdeveloped countries show that between 1973 and 1983 there was a fivefold increase, and by 1984 it came to 711 000 million dollars, while the ratio of debt service to export earnings was 21.6 percent for those countries in 1983.⁴ For the biggest debtors the ratio was 35-40 percent.

For Latin America, the most debt-ridden region of the world, the foreign debt has reached more than 330 000 million dollars.⁵

For every half percent yearly increase in interest rates, Latin America must pay out an additional 1600 million dollars.⁶ For the Third World in general, an increase of 1.5 percent in interest rates means 5000 million dollars in additional payments every year.⁷

The reasons for this dangerous increase in the debt service charge can be summed up as follows:

a) An important part of the loans, especially those to the big Latin American debtors, have floating interest rates. This means that the countries must pay the rates prevailing at any given moment on the market in line with the established contract.

For example, the combined debt of Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and South Korea in late 1982 was 85 percent of the debt based on floating interest rates, which are on average double the fixed rates.¹

b) Debt renegotiation (review of payment conditions for the debtor) has in itself given rise to new increases in interest rates vis-à-vis those prevailing on the market at the time of renegotiation. Interest rates for renegotiated loans between 1978-81 increased by 1.75-2.25 percent over the previous rate. In addition to this, there are charges for renegotiation commissions which come to 1.5 percent of the renegotiated debt.

c) In the last few years there has been an increase in the loans coming from private sources rather than governments or international institutions — that is, from private banks. Private loans are increasingly expensive because the banks base their operations on market conditions (greater interest rates) with shorter maturity periods on smaller loans.

The increased interest underdeveloped countries pay out limits the money they can spend on development and forces them to reduce imports and consumption levels which are often intolerably low for the great majority of the people. This critical situation puts many countries on the brink of bankruptcy.

Given the influence of the United States on the international credit market, the interest rate hike has caused a flow of money from abroad into that country since the U.S. is considered more profitable than the country of origin. This flow of money helps the United States compensate in part for its budget deficit and balance of trade problems, but it hampers other countries who need capital to invest in their economies.

To prevent this outflow of capital to the United States, the other developed capitalist countries have been forced to raise their interest rates. This has resulted in a worldwide interest rate hike at a time when the critical state of the world economy requires a soft credit policy with low rates to encourage trade and investment, especially productive investment.

The higher interest rates in the United States also increase the demand for dollars and also their exchange rate, that is, their "price" expressed in other currencies. This makes all goods sold in dollars more expensive. The phenomenon affects over two-thirds of world trade including such strategic items as oil and other kinds of fuel that are marketed in dollars.

Since the factors causing interest rate hikes will not be eliminated in the near future, further increases are likely and therefore more tension in the monetary-financial field.

To sum it up, the interest rate hike resulting from the capitalist economic crisis, now centered in the United States, is an element which reduces world trade, runs counter to the interests of the underdeveloped countries and by extension to those of the rest of the world economy. Since it sharpens contradictions all over the world, it may have long-term and virtually unpredictable consequences in the near future.

REFERENCES:

1. IMF Annual Report, 1983, p. 70.
2. Newsweek, January 23, 1984, p. 36.
3. Business Week, June 27, 1983, p. 48.
4. PL dispatch, May 9, 1984.
5. IPS special service, May 3, 1984.
6. Granma, May 11, 1984, p. 8.
7. PL news summary, May 10, 1984, p. 8.
8. IMF Survey, January 10, 1983, p. 8.

UPEB'S STAND AGAINST TRANSNATIONALS PRAISED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in English Jul 84 pp 61-62

[Text]

▼ The creation of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) was a major breakthrough in Latin America's continuing struggle to improve terms of trade and make them more equitable, according to Costa Rica's Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Francisco Morales.

He made this statement during the recently ended tenth ministerial conference of this banana exporting front, which is composed of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Ecuador has for more than a year been taking part as an observer.

Morales said that for almost a decade, the leaders of the countries concerned, including the late Panamanian general Omar Torrijos, and the former president of Costa Rica José Figueres, have been aware of the need for unified action with regard to the banana, one of their most important basic products, to obtain fair and stable prices on the international market.

The UPEB has been a pioneer in the region and continues to be an essential forum in the struggle to achieve the development targets aspired to by the governments, workers, and producers of these countries.

Morales said that for the first time the countries' leaders had dared to make a stand against the banana transnationals, who are in control of banana marketing worldwide.

He said that after a decade of joint efforts, successes and failures, the balance was now in their favour and they were all agreed that UPEB was the most appropriate vehicle to represent their interests.

In his frank and realistic speech, he said that the transnationals had conspired to lead people to believe that UPEB would collapse within two years

of its creation, but that the truth was that UPEB, though weak, was still in existence.

Morales who made a detailed and blunt analysis of the serious economic situation in his country, common to all the countries in the area, was given an enthusiastic welcome by the conference participants and by the executive board led by Carlos Manuel Zerón.

► SOLIDARITY

The spontaneous call for solidarity between Colombia and Costa Rica against international pressure to eliminate or reduce the tax on banana exports, which was also supported by the other UPEB members, shows that the organisation's strength lies in the joint coordinated action of the member countries.

According to Morales, although the UPEB countries are only a small group, they provide a large part of total world banana exports. He said, "We must show the Latin American community that we have the ability and the political will to work together in defence of our common interests."

The president of the conference, the Panamanian Minister of Agricultural Development, Ramón Sieiro, said that the member countries were making progress towards common targets and that solidarity is essential to achieve the objectives set out by UPEB in the constitutional agreement of 1974.

Regarding the export tax, one of the main subjects examined by the ministers, the Costa Rican representative made an incisive analysis of the socio-economic problems affecting his country which are common to the whole area.

Morales said that the growing demand by large sectors of the population for more schools, improved health facilities,

higher incomes and a better standard of living can only be satisfied by a government which possesses the resources to invest in and develop an economy which benefits the majority.

"The people," he said, "are not willing to reduce their standard of living, and the answer is not to be found in banning trade unions or eliminating taxes."

► GRADUAL TAX REDUCTION

According to Morales, these factors which have a direct influence on the economy, must be examined by UPEB "with flexibility, without dogmatism, and realistically."

For this reason, he said, the additional payment for each exported case of bananas laid down in the 1974 "Panama agreement", had a noticeable effect, since "we committed ourselves to adding an extra charge of between US\$0.25 and US\$1.00 per case."

In his inaugural address, which was described as "clear, sincere and brave", Sieiro pointed out that the tax had unfortunately been losing its real value over the years simply on account of inflation.

He said the nominal value of the tax had recently been affected by tax exemptions, incentive measures, and other similar measures, to the point that the real average value of the banana tax is now less than 50 per cent of what it was in 1974.

In fact, he said, it was not even 25 per cent of the 1974 value of the dollar, which was the original amount agreed by the member countries.

Sieiro reminded the participants that the Panama Agreement signatory countries, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Ecuador, had made a commitment to set an export tax on each case of up to US\$1.00, or to use other means to achieve the same effect.

Colombia took advantage of the opportunity to apply a similar measure: it increased the export prices. Ecuador in the end did not sign the UPEB constitutional agreement and Nicaragua began to charge an export tax on each case when the Government of National Reconstruction took power.

The present rate of tax for each coun-

try, according to the information given by different Central American and Panamanian news sources is as follows:

Costa Rica: US\$0.70 per case

Guatemala: US\$0.25 per case

Honduras: US\$0.50 per case

Panama: US\$0.60 per case

The Guatemalan government issued a law, no. 73 in 1983 which decreed that banana exports would pay only an additional US\$0.25 until June 30 1984.

From July 1984 until June 30, 1985, only 25 per cent of this amount would be charged, and from July 1985 onwards the tax would be removed altogether.

The governments of both Honduras and Panama have offered, for a period of three years, moratoria or exemptions to the tune of between US\$0.10 and US\$0.18 on account of the damage to crops caused by strong winds.

Costa Rica reduced the tax from US\$0.95 to US\$0.70 a box for a period of three months beginning December 1983.

► THE ONE DOLLAR TAX

UPEB's executive director Carlos Manuel Zerón, said that it was up to the governments themselves to make their own decisions regarding policies and tax measures.

However, the executive is aiming to bring all the taxes up to the same level, that of 1974: US\$1.00 per case.

This was also advocated by Costa Rica, and the executive of the conference decided to reach a decision during the eleventh ministerial meeting to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The decision to impose a tax on banana exports was made after a close study of world prices and the position of the banana producing countries. It was taken because of the deteriorating terms of trade, a result of the transnationals' tradition of paying low prices and because of the urgent need for income to be invested in productive enterprises.

The executive director said that "if the countries concerned are hoping for an economic recovery, the only way they can reduce the fiscal gap is to demand the reimposition of the fruit export taxes fixed in 1974." ▲

OFFICIAL FEES FOR LEGAL SERVICES PUBLISHED

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 25 Jun 84 p 4

[Text] Since last April, the official fees to be charged by Collective Law Offices have been in effect for legal services to the public in civil, administrative, labor and penal matters.

The following rates are in force throughout national territory for legal services in civil, administrative and labor matters:

	Rate	
Regular proceeding	100.00	pesos
Summary proceeding	60.00	
Executory proceeding	40.00	
Correction of error	50.00	
Incidentals	50.00	
Divorce	80.00	
Remedy of appeal	50.00	
Declaration of heirship (direct and collateral)	80.00	
Relief proceeding	50.00	
Condemnation under eminent domain	100.00	
Liquidation of community property	100.00	
Relief proceeding in possession and control	60.00	
Proceeding to demonstrate use and need	50.00	
Motion to vacate	100.00	
Court injunction	10.00	
Lifting a court injunction	10.00	
Challenging an injunction	50.00	
Provisional alimony	40.00	
Administrative proceeding (in court)	100.00	
Administrative proceeding (before state agencies)	30.00	
Appeal	30.00	
Review proceeding	100.00	
Labor matters (*)		
Simple documents	10.00	
Petitions	40.00	
Review proceeding	100.00	


(*) It should be noted that in the case of labor litigation, according to Article 697 of Law 7, all workers are empowered to appear in courts on their own behalf, without any assistance, no matter what their age, although they can be represented by an attorney or by union leaders, relatives or other workers from the same workplace.

OVER 500 SAHARANS STUDY ON ISLE OF YOUTH

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 22 Jul 84 p 9

[Article by Pedro Garcia]

[Text]



IN SPITE of the fact that they are about 10 000 kilometers from their country, the Saharawi children and teenagers on the Isle of Youth (formerly Isle of Pines) feel right at home, as it they were with their elders fighting against the intervention of the reactionary Moroccan regime.

Chosen from towns and isolated desert areas of the Democratic Saharawi Arab Republic, they have adjusted to study conditions in Cuba.

For two years, the 569 students including 120 girls have been studying at the Evangelina Cosío School. The school is named after a fighter against Spanish colonialism who was banished to what was then the Isle of Pines.

Sidat Ahmed, a 28-year-old member of the POLISARIO Front and history teacher at the school, says the students rapidly adjusted because "we are very much like the Cubans, and we can't forget this demonstration of solidarity between two countries seeking the same goal."

They observe their schedule rigorously in both study and work which is supported by fine relations with the Committees of Revolutionary Orientation (COR), the Young Communist League (UJC), the Party and other organizations at the school.

"Every COR member sees to the work of his cell or group which meets every Sunday to discuss existing problems and difficulties," Ahmed explained.

We were able to confirm this when we toured the well-cared-for facilities and talked to students such as 15-year-old Emberka Hamudi, her group's political activist. She said that "the good work of all is the best contribution we can make to the struggle of our people."

PRESERVING TRADITIONS

Saharawi students and teachers fitted out a Friendship Hall which they proudly display to visitors. It includes exhibits of their history and culture, as well as samples of handicrafts and information on their way of life.

Also on display are trophies and awards obtained in student emulation programs and documents and photos reflecting international solidarity with their cause.

The Democratic Saharawi Arab Republic, which is currently recognized by 34 nations, and its armed struggle which began on May 20, 1973 are depicted in the hall along with the biographies of revolutionary martyrs Mohamed Sidi Brahim Basiri and Luail Mustafa Sayed.

All the country's significant dates are celebrated at the school. Such was the case on May 20 when Saharawi Ambassador in Cuba Bulahe Mohamed Fadell visited the school and reminded students of their obligation to their people. He said that would be fulfilled by their carrying out daily tasks well.

SPORTS AND CULTURE

Like all young people, the Saharawis are sports lovers, volleyball, basketball, soccer, and track and field being their favorites. Several of their teams always classify in competitions on the Isle of Youth.

The school has a physical education depart-

ment staffed by four teachers who receive advice and help from the school sports division of the municipal sports department.

In the field of culture the students are active participants in the local amateur movement and have fully functioning dance, music and theater groups along with soloists, painters and reciters.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

As part of the comprehensive attention given to the students, a doctor and two nurses staff the infirmary.

Health personnel also give lectures on hygiene, vaccinations and the need for regular visits to the doctor.

This all-around work and the students' attitude are what have made the academic and production results achieved here possible.

In the first quarter of the 1983-84 school year, 97.1 percent of the students passed and they had surpassed the production goal by 7.6 percent. This refers to the half-day's agricultural work the youngsters do every day.

The school recently won first place in the municipal Who Reads and Knows More Contest about the Cuban Revolution and international politics organized by the education department.

School principal Lázaro Martín Saavedra, who supervises the 33 teachers, says that this is an important and unforgettable experience reflecting the value of the work done by the educators.

CSO: 3200/50

GHANAIA STUDENTS AT ISLE OF YOUTH'S NEWEST SCHOOL

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in English Jun 84 pp 22-23

[Article by Miriam Castro: "Learning Fast--Education on the Isle of Youth"]

[Text] ▼ The visitor to the Isle of Youth, the former Isle of Pines, is immediately struck by the presence of thousands of children and young people, from different African countries.

On this island, 125km to the south of the western part of Cuba, these representatives of Africa's new generation are integrated with the *pineros*, as the islands inhabitants are called, and can be seen talking and dancing with them, or walking with them in the parks and along the avenues.

Of course they can only do this in their spare time, at weekends in particular, since from Monday to Friday in order to find these new inhabitants of the island one has to travel in different directions from the capital, Nueva Gerona, to the many secondary schools which together house more than 10 000 African pupils.

These Basic Secondary Schools in the Countryside (ESBEC), were built from 1971 onwards by the Cuban government, each with a capacity of 600 boarding pupils, from Angola, Ethiopia, Namibia, the Congo, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé, Western Sahara and Ghana.

Like other young foreigners studying in Cuba, these students once they have finished their secondary education, can specialise in electronics, chemistry, medicine, economics and other sciences.

The provision of grants is based on the principle of internationalism and the Cuban Revolution's solidarity with under-developed and developing countries and in recognition of the solidarity shown towards Cuba by many countries.

The foreign students are guaranteed free food, housing, transport, clothing and shoes, medical care, and free sporting, cultural, and recreative activities,

and are given pocket money for personal expenses.

► THE NEWEST SCHOOL

The school of *Héroes del Baire*, is located 36km to the south of Nueva Gerona. It was named after a Cuban frigate which was sunk by counter-revolutionaries in 1961 near the coast of the Isle of Youth.

It has 610 students, 105 women and 505 men, who came across the Atlantic last August from Ghana, part of which used to be known as the "Gold Coast" for its mineral wealth.

Very rarely has one to resort to English (Ghana's official language) when talking to the Ghanaian students, which shows that they made full use of the intensive Spanish course they were given when they first arrived.

The students are currently receiving classes from Cuban teachers in physics, chemistry, biology, and work education. Some other subjects, such as history, geography and English, are taught by teachers specially brought over from Ghana.

This large and modern school, like all the other schools for foreign students on the island, and schools for Cubans within the national education system, has adopted a work-study system so that the students receive an all-round education.

Most Ghanaian students combine their academic studies with fruitgathering, thus contributing to the development of the local economy, while others clean and look after the facilities.

The students can be heard singing while they work in the gardens, classrooms, or workshops. They play baske-

ball, volleyball, and more especially football, which is one of their national sports.

Paul Kitcher, the Ghanaian government's official representative in the school, explains that those who practise a religion, be it Islam, Christianity or native beliefs, can do so freely.

"The Christians meet on Sundays, and the Moslems on Fridays. They choose their own leaders."

He said that children of workers and peasants from different parts of Ghana are chosen to come to Cuba, and when they arrive in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, the ones who obtain the best results in a test are selected.

"It is very important for our young people to come to study in Cuba. Our revolution is still very young and those who receive their professional training here will strengthen the Ghanaian revolution."

He said that Ghana badly needed medium-level agricultural technicians, doctors and engineers, because many of the technically qualified people left the country, particularly immediately after the triumph of the revolution on June 4, 1979, which was led by the young flight lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

▷ FROM GHANA TO THE ISLE OF YOUTH

Abdai Samad Ramko used to attend a secondary school in the Ghanaian province of Salaga, where rice and yams are grown. He is now president of the student's union having been elected by the students.

He says that by studying here he is gaining valuable experience which will help his country and contribute to changing the society.

Sixteen year old Golda Sae, from Accra, who used to be in a Presbyterian school, has now come to school on the island "because I wanted to find out about socialism and study medicine."

... were fascinated by her hairstyle, which was also worn by many other students, and she explained that it is typically African and is called the *Western Style*, which is made by weaving a thread through locks of hair separated into strands to make delightful little crowns all around the head.

Linda Addo Baffar, said she came from Brong Ahafo Wenchi (East), one of Ghana's ten regions, and that she too wanted to be a doctor to help in her country's development.

Golda and Linda wore school uniforms consisting of a light blue blouse, a dark blue skirt, black shoes and white socks (the men wear the same colours in shirts and trousers). Students can also be seen wearing traditional Ghanaian clothes.

The girls wear *kenite* skirts and multi-coloured robes and the boys also wear long robes.

They were playing *tambus*, drums made from the trunks of the *wawa* tree, beating them with *atumpain* (curved wooden sticks) and dancing on a stage in the open air, which also serves as a patio.

"We are in the process of reviving our national folklore and it is clear that the young people enjoy it," said Dora Agorson, a Ghanaian teacher of culture.

We were told the story of how, when they arrived on the island, without knowing the language, the children sang Cuban songs in the dialects of their own country. Now they sing them in Spanish and dance to Cuban rhythms, according to a Ghanaian geography teacher, who said, "They are adapting quickly." ▲

DROPOUTS TIED TO BROKEN HOMES, LACK OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 26, 29 Jun 84

[Interview with Dr Lidya Martinez, formerly with the Center for Diagnosis and Orientation of the Office of Specialized Education, and coauthor of the Minors Rehabilitation Plan, in the "Issues of General Interest" column, by Susana Tesoro; date, time and place not given]

[Text] Between 1970 and 1982 the number of youths between 13 and 16 years of age rose by 352,889, an increase which places an added demand on educational resources. In addition, the population between the ages of 13 and 16 that had dropped out of school rose by 20.6 percent during that period, with the figures declining as the age increases. The lowest rate of school attendance is among females, with rural areas coming in behind urban areas.

Using the above statistics, as well as many others, and with the participation of numerous agencies, organizations and entities, the Committee on Youth, Children and Equality of Rights for Women of the Peoples Government National Assembly carried out a study on school dropouts. This study sheds some light on the current problem, and makes some recommendations.

The study will be discussed by the highest body of the state in its session next 5 July. Because this issue is so interesting, we decided to consult Dr Lidya Martinez, who has a doctorate in pedagogy and worked for 18 years at the Center for Diagnosis and Orientation of the Office of Specialized Education. She coauthored the Minors Rehabilitation Plan that was created by the Interior Ministry, when she was a member of the ministry's Prison Commission. Lidya is now retired, but she has vast experience and innumerable opinions on the subject.

"Behind every act on the part of a child or teenager lie the actions and lives of his or her parents. I practiced therapeutic pedagogy, and I interviewed the parents of children with social problems. That was where most of the blame lay."

[Question] Many people think that sociologists always blame children's bad behavior on the parents, and that is unfair. What do you think?

[Answer] Who does bear the responsibility if not they, whether they be fathers, mothers, guardians or whatever they are called, since they are the

ones who provided guidance for the children and set examples? In my interviews I was able to see that children's behavior problems happen most often in situations of divorced parents or unhappy marriages, in which the child witnesses misunderstandings or even aggression between the parents. The child loses respect for his parents, and then they cannot give him any guidance because he ceases to pay attention to them. That is a logical reaction; you cannot follow someone you do not respect, whether consciously or unconsciously.

It is important to note (Lidya goes on) that sometimes the material conditions of the home force children to be in the street constantly. They come into contact with elements that are always hanging around in the streets, and that is always bad; it leads them astray.

[Question] To what do you attribute the fact that a large number of teenagers drop out of school?

[Answer] There may be many reasons. I think that a major one is that sometimes they need a stipend, some economic assistance that not all parents can provide, and they want clothing, transportation, girlfriends—natural things—and they ask to go to work. In the case of girls, well, they fall in love, they get married, they are not well guided, and they devote themselves to raising children.

I always recommend to parents that when their children enter secondary school they encourage them to go into a technological skill or to become apprentices, where they will be trained in a trade, mid-level education, and they are assured of earning some income. Then, when they are working, if they show any interest or vocation, they can become professionals and are more useful to society.

But if you'll allow me, I will say that it is not just the dropouts who are in the streets; sometimes those in school hang out there, which causes problems for these ill-bred children, and this is because sometimes the parents do not pay attention to them or leave them in the care of their grandparents. Then they leave school or play hooky to wander around through the neighborhoods bothering the residents.

I congratulate the committee you referred to, and I salute the important work they have undertaken. All of us who have dealt with this important issue, and society in general, will be very grateful. But I think greater emphasis should be placed on seeking a way to enforce the laws and to take steps against the parents whose children drop out or play hooky from school. I think it would be more effective that way.

8926

CSO: 3248/736

NEGLIGENCE, FAULTY MACHINERY CAUSING WORKPLACE FATALITIES

293 Incidents in 1983

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 25 Jun 84 p 4

[Article by Luis Rodriguez Balmaseda]

[Text] In order to learn more about the specific causes of fatal accidents, and to find out how our workers are becoming involved in accidents, the State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS) has recently concluded a wide-ranging research study.

This work yielded some valuable information about the measures that must be adopted to reduce the on-the-job accidents that unfortunately take place today.

The source of data for this research was a sample of 244 investigation files of the 293 fatal accidents that occurred in 1983.

It is important to note that of the 244 cases studied, 176 took place in industry, construction, agricultural, maritime-port and other occupations. Of this total, 68 occurred on the road while vehicles were being operated, and during other occupational activities.

The sample studied represents 83 percent of the total number of cases, so it represents a broad range of problems and makes the conclusions highly reliable.

Technical defects in machinery, equipment and facilities, that is, unsafe conditions, were the direct cause of 46 percent of the cases studied, as revealed in the analysis.

The unsafe conditions discovered were numerous and varied, including a welding machine that had been hit and had its coiling damaged, in addition to not being grounded, and not taping the terminals of a 220-volt electrical line and connecting the meter with the line hot.

Another accident resulted from a transformer with uncovered terminals, which the electrician touched, killing him.

Numerous accidents were caused by light bulbs lacking the corresponding socket, having been attached by soldering instead.

Another noteworthy accident resulted from laying fiber cement tiles on a roof without the safety mesh and boards, as instructed, even though these operations are tied to one another and one is paid for doing them. This is a mandatory part of the job, and the failure to include it reveals a lack of supervision and quality control on the part of the project chief.

In addition, the study revealed problems related to the organization of work, corresponding to a lack of planning and supervision of work, as well as little response to breaches of discipline.

From all this information, it can be concluded that the causes of fatal accidents this year were the same as in previous years.

In view of this evidence, it is easy to see that the agencies and companies are not enforcing all the technical, organizational, educational and disciplinary preventive measures, which are essential elements in reducing the accident rate.

Despite the above, it should be noted that there has been a slight drop of 5 percent in the rate of fatal accidents this year with relation to 1982.

The agencies that reported such declines were the Ministry of the Sugar Industry (MINAZ), 21 percent; the Ministry of Transportation (MITRANS), 28.5 percent; the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRIC), 15.4 percent; and the State Committee for Technical and Material Supply (CEATM), 50 percent.

The reduction can be characterized as modest. It is an encouraging statistic, however, in that it indicates that the preventive measures taken, though gradually and not yet effectively, are resulting in lower accident figures, which is a point of departure for continuing to progress in this area.

Increase in Electrical Accidents

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 28 Jun 84 p 4

[Article by Joaquin Oramas]

[Text] There has been a steady increase in fatal accidents in basic industry in the last 3 years, particularly in the electrical sector. A total of 71 deaths have occurred during this period, many of them resulting from a lack of enforcement by management, and from failure to comply with protection and health measures.

8926

CSO: 3248/736

QUALITY OF CANE CUTTERS' BOOTS SEEN IMPROVING

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 26, 29 Jun 84 p 32

[Article by Alberto Pozo]

[Text] The boots worn by cane cutters seemed to have a serious deficiency: the heel came off. The specimen I was shown looked like a crocodile with its mouth gaping open. The workers' movement was about to come out in favor of buying the boots abroad if light industry did not improve the situation.

The heel was nailed on from the outside in with ordinary tacks. It would not stay on with the brusque and harsh movements required for cutting cane by hand. The solutions were well known, so the decision was made. From then on, striated tacks, like screws, were used. The shoe was turned upside down on a heel-fitting machine, and the tacks were now placed from the inside out in order to improve the grip. So far, at this sugar company, no one has complained about heels coming off.

That was not all; a glue made up of two components considered the best in the world was used on the boots. In addition, each boot was sewn using the system known as "mackey," that is, the sole, the upper and the insole were all sewn together. To give an idea of the added measures taken, none of the most popular brands on the international market uses reinforcement with both sewing and glue.

With this progress, it was decided to submit the Cuban boot, under the brand name "Coloso," to the quality certification process. The reference samples with which it was compared were the following: "Acebo" (Czechoslovakia), the typical shoe of the German Democratic Republic (it is sold without a brand name, of course), "Stanton" (Colombia), and "Wilkes" (England).

The results were as follows: In assembly, the finish was inferior to the others; however, in flexibility, softness and lightness, it was superior to the other samples. As is almost always the case, the weak point of our products lies in the presentation of the product. It was placed in the first category, that is, considering the country's possibilities and needs. The intrinsic quality of the "Coloso" boots is actually higher than that of the reference samples. Therefore, we repeat that we are in the presence of a good boot.

However, even though our boot is made with greased leather to enable it to withstand better the beating it takes in the mud and water, and the lack of care (you cannot expect the cane cutters, after their arduous day of work, to spend their time taking care of their boots), the final result of the tremendous wear and tear on these boots is that many do not make it through the harvest season, but break down earlier.

Aware of this situation, and of the fact that many cutters wear their boots without laces and thus flopping freely on the foot, which makes it even more difficult for them to last, we looked into these circumstances.

Since the laces were made of cotton, the water, mud and pressure were destroying the laces that came with the boots, and they were in short supply. This situation has improved with a change in the material out of which the laces are made: now they are of polyester, and they last longer, although they do need to be replaced more regularly anyway.

As for the principal problem of the moment, the fact that the boot does not hold up for the entire season, work is being done on a new prototype as a result of the recommendations of the State Quality Certification Commission. The new boot has been tested by brigades of cutters in Calimete. The results seem satisfactory so far.

The recommendations made concerning the new prototype are the following: lower the height of the heel from 14 to 12 centimeters, so that the cutter does not have to untie the boot because it bothers him when he moves his foot; provide a reinforced toe with plastic and leather lining; and place fasteners or rivets along the seams to strengthen them.

The "Coloso" boot is a good example of product development. When needs are not met, substantial improvements are made to bring the product up to international standards. Its weak point, we repeat, is its presentation, the quality of its external appearance; but its intrinsic quality is even greater than that of the other samples. Nonetheless, there are still problems; it should last through an entire season, on the average. Thus, the new prototype is being tested, after improvements that will probably enable it to achieve that goal.

Finally, a note: Look how the certification process facilitates the raising of quality levels.

8926

CSO: 3248/737

BRIEFS

MINREX STATEMENT SUPPORTS LAOS—The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos on 13 June of this year issued a statement regarding the violations of its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the province of Sayaboury, bordering on Thailand, by military troops from that country. The troops have illegally occupied three villages. This action has further aggravated the already serious situation in Southeast Asia, which poses a serious threat to the just aspirations of the peoples of this region for a climate of peace and stability for all countries. The Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINREX) of the Republic of Cuba expresses its firmest support for the aforementioned statement by the Laotian Foreign Ministry, and condemns the criminal acts in violation of that country's sovereignty, which have led to the destruction of inhabited areas and of material goods. At the same time, it supports the just positions of the Laotian Government, aimed at achieving a climate of peaceful coexistence with its neighbors. [Text]
[Havana GRANMA in Spanish 26 Jun 84 p 6] 8926

CSO: 3248/736

GOVERNMENT LIFTS SPECIAL COURT SENTENCES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jul 84 pp 8, 58

[Text] The government yesterday granted full pardon to individuals convicted by special courts even though their cases have been heard by regular judges, in accordance with decree-law 74-84. The secretary general of the head of government, Colonel Manuel de Jesus Giron T Sanchez, informed reporters that the government had made the decision in response to various organizations which had requested pardon for those on whom judgment or sentence had been passed in special courts.

"This law," he explained, "will go into effect as soon as it is made public in the official bulletin. It covers individuals whose cases are still pending final resolution by regular courts."

Such courts were created during the de facto regime of General Rios Montt for the purpose of checking delinquency and insurgency. This governmental decree gave rise to many criticisms by both national and international institutions, and on several occasions their elimination was requested.

While the special courts were in force many people described as guilty of major crimes were sentenced to death. After 23 August 1983, when General Mejia Victores came to power, these courts were done away with. A few cases awaiting sentencing were transferred to regular courts.

Following is the decree-law:

Decree-Law Number 74-84: the Chief of State

Whereas it is the state's obligation as the prime reason for its existence to make sure that justice is imparted swiftly and completely in all cases for the purpose of guaranteeing security, tranquility and peace to the country's citizens;

Whereas several individuals accused of the commission of criminal acts were prosecuted in the Special Courts and were given prison sentences which were being served in appropriate penal institutions even after the most lenient law had been applied by ordinary courts;

Whereas there are some accused prosecuted in formerly existing courts by virtue of the provisions of decree-law 93-83, the trials involved are being held in regular courts and are awaiting sentence;

Whereas the individuals cited in the foregoing paragraphs as well as various professional groups of the country have expressed disagreement with the proceedings and the sentences in the courts cited which no longer exist, invoking violation of penal and procedural laws in the substantiation and judgment in the cases affected;

Whereas in view of the possibility that justice as a juridical value has been impaired in the legal actions cited, it is proper that by way of pardon the punitive relevance of the judgments concerned be canceled and that the trials in progress be stayed, for which purpose it has become necessary to decree the legal ordinance which thus stipulates it.

Therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred by articles 4 and 26 subparagraph 14 of the fundamental statutes of the government, amended by decree laws 36-82 and 87-83,

It is decreed:

Article 1. Full pardon is granted to those persons sentenced by final verdict of the special courts who are serving the sentence imposed upon them by the above mentioned special courts, even if at a later time the most lenient law was applied by judges of the regular courts in accordance with the decree law number 93-83.

Article 2. The regular courts which, based on the decree law number 93-83, are trying any of the cases initiated in the special courts, such trials will be stayed for good when this decree law goes into effect.

Article 3. Those favored by the pardon granted thanks to this law are obliged to make good on their civil liabilities in a form determined by laws on the matter; and as for those benefiting from the stay civil action which may be claimed will have to be tried before competent tribunals.

Article 4. The benefits established in this law will be applied ex officio or at the request of plaintiff in immediate form by the presidency of the Judicial Bureau, by the courts trying any of these cases, or those designated by the presidency of the Judicial Bureau, in unforeseen situations, such courts will have to set forth the resolution which may be forthcoming for these purposes.

Article 5. This decree will become effective the day following its publication in the OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

Executed in the national palace in Guatemala City on 18 July 1984.
To be published and complied with.

Major General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

Secretary General of the Head of Government, Colonel Manuel de Jesus Giron Sanchez.

Minister of the Interior Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval.

SYLVIO CLAUDE'S DAUGHTER SEVERELY BEATEN AT HOME

Port-au-Prince LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR in French 7-13 Jul 84 p 8

[Text] Sylvio Claude was not one of the opinion leaders interviewed 2 weeks ago at Casernes Dessalines. Paradoxically, he was breathing the air of freedom; he, for whom prison has seemed to create a kind of dependence. In the last few days he has been seen walking through the capital's streets without concern, having regained his full freedom thanks to the intervention of President Duvalier with the various leading government officials in Port-au-Prince to insure respect for human rights in Haiti.

Dramatic Event!

On Wednesday 4 July during the "Voice of the Catholic Church in Haiti" program, Radio Soleil, announcement was made of a sad event of which the scene was the home of the fiery president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party (PDCH).

Confined by illness, Miss Jocelyne Claude, Sylvio's daughter, had been in bed for several weeks. She only left her room to go, red with blood, to the General Hospital. Indeed, Jocelyne had been severely beaten by "public order officers" armed with automatic weapons.

Reason!

The Haitian political police had reportedly gotten wind of the imminent appearance of the journal CONVICTION... After the accounts by Miss Claude on Radio Soleil, people have concluded that the situation is dangerous. And each day it is more difficult to correct. They are afraid of being afraid. The personal intervention of the leader of the nation is necessary to check this ocean of violence; for it cannot go on without becoming irreversible. We belong to the free world, and we have ratified all its conventions relating to respect for the basic dignity of the human individual...

In the meantime, the house of the PDCH leader has reportedly been turned upside down; and no one knows where he is currently. Has he joined the underground?

9920
CSO: 3219/32

MERCHANTS CLAIM SECURITY FORCES UNLAWFULLY SEIZED FOODSTUFFS

Port-au-Prince LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR in French 7-13 Jul 84 pp 17, 22

[Text] MAIL 2035: OPEN LETTER BY THE BUSINESSMEN OF THOMASSIQUE TO THE HEAD OF STATE.

OPEN LETTER TO,
Life President of the Republic,
Mr Jean Claude Duvalier

Your Excellency,

We have been compelled, as a last resort, after many approaches and appeals to the legal bodies and established authorities in our jurisdiction, to appeal for your attention and to call out for your intervention to repair the harm and injustice of which the people of Thomassique, in the person of worthy and courageous business family fathers and mothers, have been subjected.

The following incident occurred in the morning of 3 July in the home of Mrs Jasmin Alcime, maiden name Sonia Clement: unidentified members of the armed forces arrived, weapon in hand, without warrant, to conduct a search, and then seized supplies that they found stored there. These disorderly individuals traveling in a vehicle with plate number E-8149, who did not identify themselves with any established service or authority, neither took the trouble to ask for papers or legal documents identifying the supplies nor did they try to determine the names of their owners. They simply took them without further ado, after requisitioning two vehicles used for public transport in the area, and took them to Port-au-Prince to put them in Casernes Dessalines.

Your Excellency, we believed that with the introduction of your policy of social justice this type of outdated, anarchic, and arbitrary behavior by some representatives of the armed forces and the police would disappear and that we would see the dawn in our community of a genuine era of peace and progress. However, when uncontrolled individuals shelter behind the authority of your name to commit all kinds of misappropriations, demands and extortions against a weakened and unoffending population, one may wonder whether, instead of helping you to strengthen your government and consolidate the institutions, these "leaders" are not trying rather to create social dissatisfaction and subversion through illegal dispossession and abuses of authority.

Your Excellency, Thomassique now finds itself, after 6 months of drought, in a condition of ruin and scarcity such as we have never witnessed before. Being in

a border region, we have always had the benefit of this relative closeness to trade and exchange consumer goods, which, lacking a large-scale agricultural operation, has enabled us till now to survive and to hope. It is in such a situation that the latest dishonest and unjust action was carried out by the "starvers of the people." We want to keep the law, obey orders and decisions of the state services, and contribute to the degree of our means to success of the government's economic policy. However, does this authorize the agents of order to break into homes in order to perform searches and seize belongings in violation of all the regulations, measures, and legal procedures that apply to such a situation.

Yet, it has happened that goods obtained with difficulty and at high cost by various businessmen in Thomassique and stored at the house of Mrs Jasmin Alcime were taken by unknown agents and transported to Casernes Dessalines, where, according to information received, no report of seizure and acknowledgement has been prepared.

However, the justice of the peace in Thomassique, Roosevelt Fidel, summoned urgently to the scene at the time of the action by force, recorded in his report the following items: 375 sacks of sugar, 10 boxes of caramel, 90 boxes of spaghetti, 6 boxes of Maggi, 15 small drums of oil, 5 boxes of batteries, 8 boxes of salmon, 12 boxes of almonds, 10 boxes of chiclets, 2 boxes of levapan, and 8 boxes of malta.

Your Excellency, these items snatched from our weak hands are our only resources, just as you are our only resort. We await with confidence the results of your clemency and magnanimity, which have never failed to be displayed to the benefit of those who, desperate and lost, have appealed to your goodness. We always maintain our faith in your noble enterprises, and will never cease struggling, under your command, for the triumph of the ideals of the revolution in power.

Thanks in anticipation, and assurance of our commitment and faithfulness.

For the Committee of Thomassique Businessmen:

Mrs Jasmin Alcime, maiden name Sonia Clement, Christine Desravines, Mrs Rolland Pierre, Guilbaud Clement, Mrs Alphonsee Jules, Janine Clement, Clarita Jean, Jonas Pierre, Jean Felix, and Mrs Anates Jean.

9920

CSO: 3219/32

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

NEW APROH GENERAL COORDINATOR--The controversial Association for the Development of Honduras, APROH, has appointed Bernard Casanova general coordinator in lieu of Miguel Facusse, who has resigned. Facusse reported that he could not pay the necessary attention to the organization's work. The organization thanked Facusse for his efforts. [Summary] [PA271630 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Jul 84]

NEW ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT--Tegucigalpa--The new president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Rene Corea Cortes, was sworn in yesterday. He replaces Professor Fausto Castillo Suazo, who has been appointed minister of education following the resignation of Alma Rodas de Faillos. [Summary] [PA010356 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jul 84 p 48]

CSO: 3248/743

TRANSPORT CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN SOUTHERN REGION

Mountain, Soconusco Area Roadway

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Jul 84 p 28-A

[Text] Cacahotan, Chis. 16 July--The government of Chiapas is investing over 600 million pesos for the construction of two important roadways to connect communities in the municipalities of Bellavista, Frontera Comalapa and Cacahotan, Faja de Oro, "El Aguila," roadways that, once completed, will benefit hundreds of coffee and cacao producers who live in Chiapas' remote mountain range and in the Soconusco.

Both projects were inspected this weekend by the governor of the state, Absalon Castellanos Dominguez, at the beginning of a rigorous working tour he is taking through this municipality, where he inaugurated an assistance program amounting to more than 150 million pesos.

The road between Bellavista and Frontera Comalapa will be completed by April of the coming year, and to date 17 kilometers have been constructed. The total will be 35 kilometers.

Shortly before arriving at this locality Governor Castellanos Dominguez was at a point in this stretch of road where he could appreciate the difficulty involved in carrying out the job, inasmuch as he was present during the blasting of several rocks that had to be demolished before the work could continue.

When he arrived at Cacahotan he inspected the work being done in the part of the road that goes from the municipal seat to Faja de Oro "El Aguila," which will be 18 kilometers long and will cost over 150 million pesos.

On the way to inspect this road the governor of the state visited the ejido Agua Caliente, where he inaugurated an ejido hall and a municipal agency.

At Faja de Oro the official from Chiapas took note of the progress being made in the construction of another ejido hall and of the secondary school Narciso Mendoza.

Afterwards he visited the ejido Emiliano Zapata. A federal elementary school is being constructed at this place.

At the municipal seat he visited the secondary school and then proceeded to the site where a nursery school and a municipal auditorium will be built.

The governor of the state toured different parts of the city of Cacahotan and inaugurated paved streets covering 3 kilometers. At the same place he put into action the Chiapas Plan for water and sewer services.

One of the most important projects inaugurated by the governor on this occasion is the school Leyes de Reforma, consisting of 32 classrooms, which was also made possible under this municipality's part of the Chiapas Plan at a cost of 50 million pesos.

Castellanos Dominguez also inspected the many projects being done under the same plan as part of the program for this year.

In Cacahotan he was greeted by several groups of peasants from various communities as well as by a group of townspeople headed by the municipal president, Sofia Sesma Munoz.

Also meeting here to welcome the governor of Chiapas were the municipal presidents of Motozintla, Metapa, Tuxtla Chico, Frontera Hidalgo, Ciudad Hidalgo and Union Juarez, who showed their support by inviting the governor to visit them soon to inaugurate the complete series of projects carried out in the entire Soconusco under the 1983 Chiapas Plan.

Castellanos Dominguez informed the mayors that he would be pleased to attend soon. All these projects "are an objective proof of the concern held by President Miguel de la Madrid and the government of Chiapas that the development of the communities should take place in a way that is just and equitable for all."

He pointed out that the objective of these projects developed within the framework of the Chiapas Plan, that benefit thousands of Chiapas' citizens from the Soconusco, should be that everyone may enjoy the benefits of the social justice that the president of the republic desires for all Mexicans.

Oaxaca Rail Link

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Jul 84 p 24-A

[Text] Oaxaca, 17 July--With the visit of the general director of the Mexican National Railway, Eduardo A. Cota, the old dream of the people of Oaxaca to reconstruct the Mexico-Oaxaca railway system and substantially improve the service becomes a reality.

This was established today after Eduardo A. Cota and the governor of the state, Pedro Vazquez Comenares, toured the railway facilities in this city and learned of the deficiencies and needs of part of the railway between Cuicatlan and Oaxaca.

During the working tour both officials agreed to form a joint committee that will have two principal objectives: to study the agrarian type problems related to the railway system and to carry out a project for the construction of a new station to be located in Hacienda Blanca at the north entrance to the city.

It was established that the Oaxaca-Cuicatlan stretch, 114 kilometers long, is one of the most problematical ones because of the steep gradients and the many curves it has.

For this reason, as it was substantiated during the working tour, the types of rail and ties are being changed.

The talks centered on the solution of the problems and the consensus favored the relocation of the train station and the modification of the curves and gradients in the more dangerous stretches. The restoration program will be completed in 2 years.

Interviewed by reporters, the director of National Railways indicated that the present state of the rails makes its reconstruction a matter of priority, especially when considering the importance of the wealth in natural resources of the area it connects.

It is urgent to reconstruct 25,000 kilometers in the entire country. He indicated that as a result of this the program for the modernization of the service, ordered by President de la Madrid and started on 1 July with a budget of 30 billion pesos, is progressing. This is very important, the official pointed out, because 35 percent of all the shipping service provided by the country's transportation system is handled by the railroads.

He took note of the high cost of repairing the railroad tracks. In the case of Oaxaca it is estimated that the repairs of the stretch from Oaxaca to Cuicatlan would cost a minimum of 40 million pesos per kilometer.

To this effect he added that the cost of repairing the Mexico-Oaxaca line would be around 12 billion pesos. The amount is high because the tracks are imported.

The interest of the governor of Oaxaca in reconstructing the railway system of this state was evident.

Besides the governor of the state, taking part in these and in previous activities were representatives of the state private sector, including Juan Jose Gutierrez, director of CANACO [Mexico City Chamber of Commerce]; Rene Vargas Varela, representative of the Business Coordinating Council (CCE); Mario Torres Marquez, from the Industrial Credit Union, and other businessmen.

The upkeep of the branch lines to Tlacolula Taviche and Ocotlan were discussed, in order to determine if it is feasible for Ferrocarriles to maintain them.

Plans for supporting the tourist trade through the railway system were discussed, and Director A. Cota mentioned that they are already acquiring first and second class passenger cars in order to promote tourism through this means of transportation.

9907

CSO: 3248/723

CHURCH OFFICIAL ON 'CONTRA' ACTIVITIES, ELECTIONS

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 6 Jul 84 p 9

[Interview with Msgr Bismarck Carballo by Luis Delgado; date and place unspecified]

[Text] "The Church in Nicaragua is the voice of those who have no voice."

"In Nicaragua the Catholic church tries to be the channel through which there can be some expression in the decisions of the Sandinista government on the part of persons who are usually left out."

These are the words of Msgr Bismarck Carballo, representative of the Archbishop of Managua at the Conference on The Democratic Challenge in Latin America, held in Lisbon in May, during an exclusive interview with the DIARIO DE NOTICIAS. Church-state relations, the November elections, the support of the Sandinista regime and possible alternatives for Nicaragua are some of the points touched upon by Msgr Bismarck Carballo. "We've got to be realists."

DIARIO DE NOTICIAS [DN]: What is the role of the Catholic church in Nicaragua?

Msgr Bismarck Carballo: We have to start with the principle that 80 percent of the Nicaraguans are Catholics. This means that the church represents a majority force in the country. But we also have to point to the theological principles under which the church carries out its role as the voice of those who have no voice. So, without getting into partisan politics, the church tries to be the channel through which there can be some expression on the part of those usually left out in the decisions of the government. It should be pointed out also that the church thinks that its principal role is to enlighten by prophetically proclaiming the "word of God," which means proclaiming the good news of the Gospel and speaking forth on situations of injustice.

DN: What about church-state relations; how do they stand?

Carballo: At this point they are at their lowest level. Some in fact are very tense, and for several reasons. In the first place, the Sandinista Front refused to recognize the Cardinal as the legitimate shepherd and authority of

the Catholic church, and furthermore, because the government seeks to cast aspersions on the church, especially when it tries to link some priests with arms traffic, which is an unfair and malicious accusation.

DN: But were they [relations] good once?

Carballo: There's no question whatever that the triumph of the Sandinista revolution in 1979 depended on the participation of all political and social sectors and of the church in Nicaragua. The church lent its support to the Sandinist Front in the expectation of seeing a democratic and pluralistic government formed. I can say that that support continued throughout 1979 and part of 1980. From the moment that the bishop requested the withdrawal of priests from the government, there began a campaign against the arch-bishopric, and relations between them were completely broken in July 1981, when the junta prohibited broadcasting to the mass over television.

DN: On the other side, is there any kind of contact between the church and the movements that are fighting the Sandinista regime?

Carballo: None whatsoever, since these movements are outside the country, and the Catholic church carries on its activity inside the country. So there's no kind of relationship.

DN: But how do you deal with the existence of such groups?

Carballo: We think that such movements are the fruit of the situation of injustice that exists in Nicaragua and that nothing can be settled without a dialogue, as we proposed in our Pastoral Letter of 21 April 1984, where it was requested that there be a dialogue among all Nicaraguans, including those involved in armed struggle, in order to work out a peaceful settlement in the country.

DN: What is your position with regard to the elections announced for November? Could they be a strong challenge to the regime?

Carballo: We have serious reservations about the electoral process, and we consider fair the requests of the democratic parties that conditions for them [elections] to be held now don't exist, since there is no freedom of expression or freedom to campaign on the part of the political parties. So there is a poor outlook for how the elections might turn out in Nicaragua. However, if there were free elections, the Sandinistas would lose. But since they are organized by the Sandinista Front, there's no doubt that, just like under Somoza, they too will win.

DN: George Shultz unexpectedly visited Managua. Could that mean the opening of a channel for dialogue with the USA?

Carballo: I've always believed that dialogue is a civilized route for bringing about peace, and obviously, dialogue with the United States is necessary. But it seems to me that before we insist on much on dialogue with the United States, we ought to be talking about dialogue among the Nicaraguans, just as we proposed in our last pastoral letter.

DN: Is it probably true that the great majority of Nicaraguans support the Sandinista regime?

Carballo: In the first place, it has to be said that opinion polls are prohibited in Nicaragua. Even so, the Sandinista government released a poll result that showed a support figure of 40 percent. A reporter from the Spanish agency EFE reported this news and was kicked out of the country. So we don't have any real data to confirm these figures, but we think that in view of the Sandinista regime's mistakes, it surely doesn't have very large support.

DN: And what alternatives are there? Are there any in the guerrilla movements?

Carballo: I can't say anything about the philosophy of those movements because I know very little about them, and there's very little information available in that regard, but I believe that there are people in Nicaragua, in parties struggling through legal means, that are an alternative for a government in my country.

DN: Eden Pastora, for example?

Carballo: No. I'm thinking specifically of Dr Artur Cruz, who was a member of the Sandinista junta and who is now working at the Interamerican/Development/Bank in the United States. He's a very even-tempered person who has a lot of support in Nicaragua.

DN: East-West tensions are definitely reflected in Latin America. Do you agree with this vision of international politics?

Carballo: It would be utopian to separate East-West problems from Latin America's internal questions. Unfortunately the internal problems were aggravated by the alignment with communist ideology. But we have to be realists. The USA bussed us around until the triumph of the Sandinista revolution. Right now we're on the other slope.

DN: Is it true that the guerrillas are supported by forces inside the country?

Carballo: Well, I don't have any information about aid, but obviously since Nicaragua is a closely guarded police state, such groups might have some type of support in the country.

DN: In which areas?

Carballo: They've got support in the rural and mountainous areas, but not in the cities.

DN: Do you agree that there is a resemblance between the Polish and Sandinista regimes?

Carballo: I agree totally!

12430

CSO: 3242/004

BAYARDO ARCE REFUTES ALLEGED AGREEMENTS WITH OAS

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in English Jul 84 pp 9-10

[Article by Manuel Guerrero]

[Text]

▼ This month the people of Nicaragua are celebrating five years of a revolution that has had to fight for its very existence against the biggest counterrevolutionary offensive the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has ever organised.

Despite the priority placed on sheer survival, it can be proud of its achievements in many directions. But it has never tried to pretend that the problems of a country which suffered 45 years of fierce and corrupt dictatorship under the Somoza family can be overcome in so short a time as five years.

The country's inheritance when the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) came to power on July, 1979, was far from encouraging.

The liberation war alone had cost 50 000 lives, and millions of dollars worth of damage. Somoza left behind a debt of US\$1642 million compared with reserves of only US\$3 million.

In this exclusive interview with *Prisma* Commander Bayardo Arce Castaño, coordinator of the FSLN political committee, looks back over the events of the past five years and forward to the forthcoming elections and other issues.

"I think the main political achievement of these five years has been to succeed in sustaining the revolutionary process despite the attacks launched against us by the most powerful imperialist power in the world, the United States," he begins.

He says the most important factor in the revolution's survival has been the cohesion of the Nicaraguan people around the Sandinista project. This has prevented the creation of "internal fronts" which could have balked progress.

He points to successes like the reduction of illiteracy from 50 to 12 per cent and the doubling of the school population in the space of five years from 500 000 to more than a million.

One of the most impressive statistics in the field of health care is that the country's medical workforce has tripled. All treatment is free, as is education. National investment in health care has multiplied by six.

▶ AGRARIAN REFORM

Bayardo Arce, who at 35 is one of the FSLN's youngest leaders, also points to the achievement of building in five years twice the number of houses as the Somoza dynasty created in its last two decades.

He says the most striking feature of the economy has been the country's agrarian reform "which the FSLN defines as the crux of the social and economic transformation of the country."

"As we reach our five years of revolution we have distributed more than a million *manzanas* of land (700 000 hectares) to the peasants. Land ownership patterns have been totally altered."

As well as handing over land to individual peasants and cooperatives, the revolutionary government has around 20 agroindustrial development projects underway, including a state sugar mill which will produce more than 100 000 tonnes a year.

Other major projects include plans to increase production of African palm, rice, cocoa, coconuts and basic grains, alongside the construction of hospitals, schools and other social amenities.

The Sandinista leader recalls that the master plan of the agrarian reform

envisages a division of the country's 7.7 million hectares of cultivable land into three sectors: the "people's property" administered by the state, cooperatives, and private farmers.

Despite the difficulties, above all the armed aggression and economic blockade of the country, Nicaragua has managed to increase its output of cotton, coffee and sugar. The private sector, which in the case of some products still controls 75 per cent of factories and farms, has played a crucial role in this achievement.

➤ ELECTIONS

Turning to the elections programmed for November 4, Bayardo Arce stresses the FSLN's interest in establishing a political and legal framework which will speed up society's efforts to make revolutionary changes.

He says that the elections of a National Assembly (whose functions will include that of drafting a constitution), a president and vice president, will guarantee the revolution a fixed period to continue its work.

He dismisses the threatened abstention of the right wing parties and says the only purpose of such a move would be in the international arena "to discredit our efforts to use this traditional mechanism of democracy to institutionalise the revolution."

If the threat is carried out, "then we will regard the elections as a plebiscite."

"Our programme is to be submitted to the people's will... and with the right or without it, the results will indicate to us what should be enshrined in the constitution.

"The value of elections is to be able to give a more solid basis not only to our work inside the country but also to strengthen the revolutionary process internationally."

Bayardo Arce, a member of the FSLN since 1969, says the coming elections will be a setback for the US because they will show that the majority of the Nicaraguan people agree with the changes that are being carried out.

He refutes charges that the FSLN has failed to carry out alleged agreements with the Organisation of American

States (OAS). "We have signed pacts with no one, absolutely no one," he asserts.

Turning to the elections in the US which will be held two days after Nicaragua goes to the polls, he touches on the possibility that President Ronald Reagan might be re-elected.

Considering that Reagan is promising to continue what he has begun, "what is awaiting humanity is that we may possibly arrive at a nuclear war as the Reagan administration's belligerence continues to grow."

Reagan has raised the arms race to hitherto unimagined levels of tension with the installation of the new missiles in Europe, provoking a breakdown in negotiations over detente and disarmament, he says.

The temporary recovery of the US economy has been achieved by constantly raising interest rates, to the detriment above all of the countries of the Third World "who are becoming more insolvent all the time."


Bayardo Arce praises the Western European countries allied to the US "who have at no point sought to justify US interventionism in Central America."

He highlights the attitude of the socialist community, "which has clearly signalled its solidarity with our efforts and, moreover, has materialised this solidarity in terms of technical and military cooperation so that we can defend ourselves against this aggression."

He also praises the attitude of the members of the Movement of Non Aligned Countries, who have constantly denounced Washington's aggressive policies.

The Sandinista leader sharply contrasts US efforts to strangle the Nicaraguan economy with the financial co-operation the country has received both bilaterally and multilaterally, despite Washington's pressures within the international agencies.

Nicaragua is carrying out development projects together with Cuba, Mexico, Libya, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and France, he says.

He particularly emphasises Cuba's assistance in both the literacy crusade and the health service with thousands of Cuban doctors and teachers offering their skills and services free of charge. 

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

15 Oct 1984